



CONFIRMED MINUTES

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

11 APRIL 2023

I certify that the minutes of the meeting of the Ordinary Council held on Tuesday, 11 April 2023 were confirmed on Tuesday, 9 May 2023.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'I' followed by a horizontal line and a cursive 'M'.

Presiding Person



**CONFIRMED MINUTES
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
11 APRIL 2023**

ATTENTION/DISCLAIMER

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The Shire of Mundaring expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any resolution of Council, or any advice or information provided by a Council Member or employee, or the content of any discussion occurring during the course of the Council Meeting.

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ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING COUNCIL CHAMBER

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

The Presiding Person declared the meeting open at 6.30pm.

Acknowledgement of Country

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

Recording of Meeting

Council Members and members of the gallery are advised that this meeting will be livestreamed and audio-recorded.

1.1 Record of Attendance

Council Members	Cr Paige McNeil (Deputy President) (Presiding Person)	Central Ward
	Cr Doug Jeans	Central Ward
	Cr Trish Cook	South Ward
	Cr Luke Ellery	South Ward
	Cr John Daw	East Ward
	Cr Claire Hurst	East Ward
	Cr Neridah Zlatnik	East Ward
	Cr Karen Beale	West Ward
	Cr Jo Cicchini	West Ward
Staff	Jonathan Throssell	Chief Executive Officer
	Garry Bird	Director Corporate Services
	Shane Purdy	Director Infrastructure Services
	Mark Luzi	Director Strategic Services
	Kirk Kitchin	Acting Director Strategic & Community Services
	Briony Moran	Co-ordinator Environment & Sustainability
	Anna Italiano	Minute Secretary
Apologies	Cr James Martin (President)	South Ward
	Cr Amy Collins	Central Ward
	Cr Matthew Corica	West Ward
Absent		
Leave of Absence	Nil	
Guests	Nil	
Members of the Public	10	
Members of the Press	Nil	

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

2.1 Greenmount Road Board

The Greenmount Road Board was declared on 17 April 1903. This coming Monday will be 120 years since the current Shire of Mundaring boundaries were declared. The Board was responsible for all roads within the area and met at Hesketh's Hall in Bellevue.

It wasn't until 1907 that the Greenmount Road Board has a permanent purpose built office at Lion Mill which is now the Mt Helena Vet.

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3.1 Declaration of Financial Interest and Proximity Interests

Council Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting (*Part 5 Division 6 of the Local Government Act 1995*).

Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting (*Sections 5.70 and 5.71 of the Local Government Act 1995*).

Cr McNeil disclosed a proximity interest in Item 12.2 (Proposed Correspondence to WAPC regarding Addendum of Inadvertent Errors relating to SP34's Amended Plan) as she has a property proximal to SP34 – North Stoneville.

3.2 Declaration of Interest Affecting Impartiality

A Council Member or an employee who has an interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting must disclose that interest (*Shire of Mundaring Code of Conduct, Local Government (Admin) Reg. 34C*).

Cr Hurst disclosed an interest affecting impartiality in Item 12.2 (Proposed Correspondence to WAPC regarding Addendum of Inadvertent Errors relating to SP34's Amended Plan) as her husband is a committee member of Save Perth Hills.

Cr Cicchini disclosed an interest affecting impartiality in Item 10.2 (Annual Electors' meeting Motions) as follows:

- *Decision 1 – Creating a community focussed placemaking strategy for the Shire of Mundaring, as Anthony Spagnolo (current President of Darlington Residents & Ratepayer Assoc) is a Member of Hasluck Division of the Liberal Party, the same as Cr Cicchini;*
- *Decision 2 - Architecture and Urban Design Competition for the proposed Mundaring Cultural Precinct, as Anthony Spagnolo (current President of Darlington Residents & Ratepayer Assoc) is a Member of Hasluck Division of the Liberal Party, the same as Cr Cicchini; and*
- *Decision 6 – Material and Administrative changes to the Hills Community Nursing Home at 90 Mucciarone Lane, Parkerville, as she is friends with Richard Stuart and both are members of the Liberal Party.*

4.0 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS PUBLIC QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

5.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

15 minutes (with a possible extension of two extra 15 minute periods) are set aside at the beginning of each Council meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions of Council.

Public Question Time is to be conducted in accordance with Shire of Mundaring Meeting Procedures Local Law 2015.

Summary of Question		Summary of Response
Jo Sheil – Stoneville & Parkerville Progress Association		
1.	Can I please ask, is amended Structure Plan SP34 - North Stoneville required to provide underground power?	The CEO advised that underground power is a condition of sub-division approval. The SP34 application is a structure plan and underground power is not a condition for a structure plan but would be for sub-division approval if this was to occur. Western Power is the responsible authority for this requirement. It is a usual condition of approval for urban sub-divisions that there be underground power.
Tom Burbidge – Mundaring Resident & Ratepayer Association		
1.	I have a question relating to the Annual Electors' meeting held 8 March, Decision 9 on tonight's agenda. The lack of detail in the reply " <i>the Shire has previously trialed the broadband reversing alarm</i> " seems to indicate a cursory examination. Will councillors consider requesting a thorough and detailed trial?	The Presiding Person advised that Council will be considering that decision at tonight's Council meeting.
Eric Smith – Glen Forrest		
1.	At the last Council meeting I asked " <i>Does Council value seniors within the Shire of Mundaring?</i> " The response was yes. If that is the situation then why hasn't the relocation of the bus shelter on Great Eastern Highway from stop number 14596 to stop number 14595 not been done to this date?	Director Infrastructure Services advised that as was previously indicated at the last Council meeting when Mr Smith asked a similar question, patronage numbers at this bus stop are very low. Those patronage numbers were last updated in June 2022, so are quite recent in terms of the data the Shire receives from Transperth. In addition there is a seat provided. If somebody did want a shelter, the shelter Mr Smith is referring to is 300 metres away. If

		<p>someone preferred to use that shelter they could do. It is also noted that the two stops referred to by Mr Smith are two cul-de-sacs which come off Nichol Street. Anyone living along Nichol Street could use the Nyaania Court cul-de-sac to get to that bus shelter. On that basis there is no justification to relocate the bus shelter.</p>
2.	<p>When is the policy or strategy being devised for better clarification on many matters but in particular signage within the Mundaring Shire Council boundaries and why was the community not consulted on the current item of installing three LED signages into the community that did not ask for them in their current form?</p>	<p>The Presiding Person advised that this matter is a decision on the agenda at tonight's Council meeting.</p> <p>The CEO also advised that the role of officers is to provide recommendations and advice to Council about what they may wish to do in response to a decision from the annual electors' meeting. It is not a requirement that the Council has to undertake action in response. Preliminary advice is provided to determine whether or not Council wishes to take any further action and that is the discussion to be had later in the Council meeting.</p>
John Bell – Mt Helena		
1.	<p>Has there ever been an organisational review or is there one being planned for the Shire?</p>	<p>The CEO advised that reviews of the organisation are undertaken quite frequently with restructures and different ways of delivering business. In regards to a formal review undertaken by an external third party, this hasn't occurred. Council, in previous iterations, has not supported that action.</p>
2.	<p>What is the status on the review of the WALGA Green Energy contract?</p>	<p>Director Infrastructure Services advised his recollection is that a report will be back to Council in June on the electricity usage.</p>

6.0 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

COUNCIL DECISION MOTION	C1.04.23
Moved by Cr Cook	Seconded by Cr Zlatnik

That Cr Collins be granted leave of absence from all meetings of Council held between 11 April 2023 to 8 May 2023.

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

7.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COUNCIL DECISION RECOMMENDATION	C2.04.23
Moved by Cr Ellery	Seconded by Cr Jeans

That:

1. the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 14 March 2023 be confirmed; and
2. the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held 28 March 2023 be confirmed.

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

8.0 PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Deputations

1. Jo Sheil Item 12.2 – Proposed Correspondence to WAPC regarding Addendum of Inadvertent Errors relating to SP34’s Amended Plan
2. Graeme Dick Item 10.1 – Retrospective Application for Works at Transport Depot – 240 (Lot 28) Clayton Road, Helena Valley
3. Richard Stuart Item 10.2 – Annual Electors’ meeting 8 March 2023 - Decision 6
4. John Bell Item 10.2 – Annual Electors’ meeting 8 March 2023 – Decisions 3 & 4

5. Christian Jackson- Stegner Item 10.2 – Annual Electors’ meeting 8 March 2023 – Decision 11

COUNCIL DECISION MOTION	C3.04.23
Moved by Cr Daw	Seconded by Cr Cicchini

That in accordance with clause 4.6(4) of the *Shire of Mundaring Meeting Procedures Local Law 2015* Deputations be extended by a further 15 minutes.

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

6. Eric Smith Item 10.2 - Annual Electors’ meeting 8 March 2023 – Decisions 5 & 14
7. Anthony Spagnolo Item 10.2 – Annual Electors’ meeting 8 March 2023 – Decisions 1 & 2
8. Christian Jackson- Stegner Item 10.2 – Annual Electors’ meeting 8 March 2023 – Decision 13

8.2 Petitions

The CEO advised that he had received a petition from Sharon Hillman, President of the Glen Forrest Residents and Ratepayers Association which states:

“The undersigned residents of the Shire of Mundaring request the LED sign in Morgan John Morgan Reserve (Train Park) be removed asap.

We believe that the LED sign is not in keeping with the amenity of the reserve, is an eyesore and is out of place in a hills community park”.

COUNCIL DECISION RECOMMENDATION	C4.04.23
Moved by Cr Daw	Seconded by Cr Ellery

That the petition be received and referred to the CEO for action.

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

8.3 Presentations

Nil

9.0 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

9.1 Reports of Audit and Risk Committee 7 March 2023

9.1.1 Policy Review - Work Health and Safety Policy

File Code	GV.OPP 1
Author	Amanda Gradisen, OSH Officer
Senior Employee	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	1. Draft Work Health and Safety Policy ↓ 2. OSH-01 Occupational Health and Safety Policy ↓

SUMMARY

As a result of new legislation, the Occupational Health and Safety Policy has been reviewed and a replacement draft Work Health and Safety (WHS) Policy prepared, which is presented for adoption (**Attachment 1**).

The draft WHS Policy includes overarching roles and responsibilities, an updated definition of worker and commitments in relation to worker safety to align with new legislation and Shire values.

BACKGROUND

The draft WHS policy was presented to the 24 January 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting as a means of expediting the adoption of this policy, to allow for the associated supporting policies and procedures to be developed with a degree of certainty. At this meeting, Council resolved (**C9.01.23**) as follows;

*“That Council refer the updated Work Health and Safety (WHS) Policy (**Attachment 1**) to the Audit and Risk Committee to be considered at the 28 February 2023 meeting.”*

The reason for the change was *“To utilise the knowledge and expertise of the Audit and Risk Committee to review the policy within the context of the external audit findings”*.

OSH-01 Occupational Health and Safety Policy was last reviewed and adopted in December 2017 (**Attachment 2**).

On 31 March 2022 the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* and *Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022* came into effect, which has resulted in a number of changes to the WHS environment. These include the introduction of psychosocial health; the broadening of the definition of worker which was previously based on the employer - employee relationship and now covers a broader range of workplace relationships; increased penalties and incident notification.

Implementation of the new legislation has provided an opportunity for the Shire to review current WHS practices.

It was identified in the 'Review of LGIS Safety and Health Assessment Report' presented at the 26 April 2022 Audit and Risk Committee that the Shire's Occupational Safety and Health Policy needed to be reviewed. This recommendation was also included in LGIS's Safety and Health Assessment (Audit) Report 2021.

This action item was included in the Work Health and Safety Action Plan September 2022, which was presented to the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held 15 October 2022.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The current policy will be deleted if Council adopts the recommendation.

The Work Health and Safety (WHS) Policy is considered to be a Council Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial implication relating to the development of the WHS Policy itself. However, within the WHS Policy there is a commitment that Shire of Mundaring is responsible for providing the necessary resources to support implementation of the policy as far as practicable and reasonable. This is to ensure ongoing health and safety of Shire staff and to minimise harm.

It is likely that additional resources will be required to meet the requirements of the new legislation and these will be considered further in the 2023/24 Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework workshops.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 4 - Governance

Objective 4.4 – High standard of governance and accountability

Strategy 4.4.4 – The Shire will apply sustainability principles in its own operations and corporate practices

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Governance

- Commitment to providing a safe work environment
- Deliver outcomes that are consistent with strategic goals and objectives of the Shire
- Comply with relevant legislation and regulation
- Adequately manage risk

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: People: The Shire's management of WHS risks are inadequate causing risk to workers.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Major	High
Action / Strategy		
The Shire promotes an active WHS culture where risks are appropriately captured and addressed.		

Risk: Compliance and Reputational Non-compliance with the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020 and Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022</i> and reputational damage.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Extreme	High
Action / Strategy		
Ensure an appropriate WHS system (including policies and procedures) are implemented and maintained.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The Shire has contracted external consultants, Delivering Outcomes Pty Ltd, to undertake a Work Health and Safety audit. At the time of undertaking the audit, a WHS Policy was in draft form and Delivering Outcomes Pty Ltd have provided feedback on the draft.

COMMENT

External consultants, Delivering Outcomes Pty Ltd, completed a Work Health and Safety Audit in December 2022. A review of the Shire's current OSH-01 Occupational Safety and Health Policy was included. The provider recommended that the policy be updated to ensure compliance with the legislative changes.

The Work Health and Safety Policy is significant because it provides the framework and outlines the roles and responsibilities by which worker safety and legislative compliance is implemented at all levels of the Shire.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

ARC3.03.23 – Policy Review - Work Health and Safety Policy

COUNCIL DECISION	C5.04.23		
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION	ARC3.03.23		
Moved by	Cr Jeans	Seconded by	Cr Daw

That Council:

1. Adopts the new Work Health and Safety Policy (**Attachment 1**) with the following amendments;
 - Amend No 4, dot point 2 remove the words “the implementation of”;
 - Amend No 4, dot point 4 to read “Providing a safe and healthy work environment, that is supported by all workers and council members”;
 - Amend No 4, dot point 6 add space in between the words “program” and “that”;
 - Amend No 4, dot point 8 to read “Regularly reviewing all WHS documents to ensure they remain relevant and accurate”; and
 - Add new dot point 14 to No. 4 to read “Supporting a risk reporting culture.
2. Deletes the former Occupational Health and Safety Policy (**Attachment 2**)

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil



1.1 WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Responsible Directorate	Corporate Services	
Responsible Service Area	People and Culture	
Adopted	April 2002	R25238
Reviewed	February 2013	C17.02.13
	December 2017	C4.12.17 EN BLOC
	January 2023	
Procedure Ref	N/A	

1. PURPOSE

To confirm Shire of Mundaring’s (the Shire) commitment to providing a workplace that prioritises the health and safety of all workers and outlines the principles governing the management of Work Health and Safety (WHS) in the workplace.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all of the Shire’s workplaces, council members and workers.

3. DEFINITIONS

- council member** a person elected under the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) as a member of council. The Shire’s council members includes the Shire President, Deputy Shire President and Councillors (as defined by the Act).
- contractor** a person or firm that undertakes a contract to provide materials or labour to perform a service or do a job on behalf of the Shire.
- health** means physical and psychological health.
- WHS risk management** the process for identification of hazards, estimation of related risk of injury, illness or damage and implementation of mitigating control measures.
- workplace** where work is carried out for a business or undertaking as defined by the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* (WHS Act) and includes any place where a worker goes, or is likely to be, while at work including:
 - a vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other mobile structureany waters and any installation on land, on the bed of any waters or floating on any waters.



worker

any person who carries out work in any capacity as defined by the WHS Act including as:

- an employee; or
- a contractor or subcontractor; or
- an employee of a contractor or subcontractor; or
- an employee of a labour hire company who has been assigned to work in the person's business or undertaking; or
- an outworker; or
- an apprentice or trainee; or
- a student gaining work experience; or
- a volunteer; or
- a person of a prescribed class.

4. POLICY

The Shire is committed to the following:

- Having a functional and practical WHS program that meets all legislative requirements and is integrated into all aspects of the Shire's operations.
- Providing the necessary resources (human, physical and financial) to support the implementation of this policy as far as is practicable and reasonable.
- Providing a WHS environment that eliminates or minimises the risk of physical or mental injury or illness to workers while minimising damage to the assets of the Shire.
- Providing a safe, healthy, low risk work environment, that is supported by all workers and council members.
- A WHS program that has underpinning values of communication, consultation and coaching that will support increases in productivity, reduce negative impacts on workers and reduce the costs associated with illness, injury or property damage. WHS communication and consultation will be a two-way process that engages with workers and ensures all requirements are understood and practical.
- Ensuring that if an injury or illness does occur as a result of work then the Shire has an efficient and effective program that supports workers in their rehabilitation and return to work (if applicable). This includes promoting early reporting of hazards and incidents, providing appropriate injury or illness management and return to work programs.
- Establishing a suite of WHS targets and objectives to facilitate transparency and accountability on WHS reporting and drive continuous improvement in WHS.
- Reviewing all WHS documents to ensure they remain relevant and accurate.
- Recognising diversity and inclusion in all WHS documents, systems and training.
- Adopting, in consultation with workers, a risk management approach to all Shire building and activities (including but not limited to, work

methods, plant and machinery acquisition and workplace design) to eliminate or control those identified risks.

- Providing competency based training to all workers to ensure individuals are equipped for their role.
- Recognising excellence in health, safety, wellbeing and return to work practices.
- Ensuring all notifiable and dangerous incidents are reported to the regulator.

4.1. Workplace Health and Safety Roles and Responsibilities

The Shire has allocated the following roles and responsibilities to ensure the objectives of this policy are achieved:

4.1.1. Council Members

Have overall responsibility for ensuring the Chief Executive Officer has put in place a fully compliant WHS program as part of the Corporate Business Plan and supported by the allocation of resources to achieve the objectives of this policy.

4.1.2. Chief Executive Officer

Will ensure a comprehensive WHS program has been identified, resourced and implemented to ensure worker safety and compliance with statutory requirements.

4.1.3. Executive Leadership Team

Fully support all aspects of the WHS program, ensure transparency and accountability and that the WHS program is measured and reported on across their directorate.

4.1.4. Leadership Team

Demonstrate compliant WHS behaviours at all times, support all aspects of the WHS program, ensure transparency and accountability and that the WHS program is measured and reported on across their teams. Guide and support all workers on compliance and actively enforces all WHS policies and procedures.

4.1.5. Coordinators and Supervisors

Demonstrate compliant WHS behaviours at all times, support all aspects of the WHS program, guide and support their respective teams and ensure WHS is implemented and complied with at all times.

4.1.6. Workers

Responsible for adhering to WHS policies, procedures and practices and ensuring theirs and others health and safety.

4.1.7. Health and Safety Committee

A committee formed to meet the legislative requirements of the Act which oversees and manages all aspects of the WHS program..

- 4.1.8. Work Health and Safety Advisor
Primarily responsible for coordinating the WHS program, including high standards of safety and well-being for workers and compliance with all relevant legislation.
- 4.1.9. Health and Safety Representatives
Elected/nominated representatives from worker groups that are trained to Worksafe standards, support the implementation and monitoring of WHS on behalf of the workers and the Work Health and Safety Committee.

5. RELATED LEGISLATION

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022

Emergency Management Act 2005

Emergency Management Regulations 2006

Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004

Dangerous Goods Safety (General) Regulations 2007

Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981

Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Regulations 1982

Shire of Mundaring

POLICY

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Policy Ref: OSH 01

Adopted:	R25238	Date:	23 Apr 2002
Amended:	C17.02.13	Date:	26 Feb 2013
Reviewed:	C4.12.17	Date:	12 Dec 2017
Procedure Ref:		Delegation Ref:	n/a
Statute Ref:	<i>Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984</i> <i>Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996</i>		
Local Law Ref:			

PURPOSE

To confirm the Shire's commitment and outline the principles governing the management of occupational safety and health (OSH) in the workplace.

Definitions

Elected Member means a Councillor of the Shire of Mundaring Council.

Risk Management is the process for identification of hazards, estimation of related risk of injury or illness and implementation of mitigating control measures.

Workplace is any location where tasks and activities are carried out for or on behalf of the Shire.

POLICY

The Shire of Mundaring is committed to the provision of a health and safety management system that eliminates or minimises risk of injury or illness to people associated with the Shire's operations.

To achieve a safe, healthy, low risk work environment, the commitment and co-operation of all our elected members, employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors is essential.

While the emphasis is on injury prevention, where injuries do occur, the Shire is committed to effective injury management, and timely return to work for all injured or ill staff members.

In support of this Policy, the Shire will:

- Establish, implement and maintain an OSH management system that complies with or exceeds all relevant legislation and subsidiary codes.
- Develop and maintain a culture that encourages all employees to manage health and safety risks.
- As far as practicable provide the necessary resources, both human and financial, to meet those requirements.
- Communicate and consult with employees in relation to all OSH matters affecting their safety in the workplace.
- Provide safe systems of work, coordination, planning, allocation of responsibilities, information, instruction, training, and supervision to enable employees, contractors and volunteers to perform their duties in a safe and healthy environment.
- Adopt, in consultation with employees, a risk management approach to work methods, plant and machinery acquisition and workplace design, and eliminate or control those identified risks.
- Manage the rehabilitation of injured workers in conjunction with relevant medical practitioners to give them a successful return to work.
- Educate and promote health and safety awareness in all employees.
- Utilise Safety and Health Representatives in hazard identification and control in conjunction with line supervision by conducting site inspections.
- Investigate all incidents in the workplace and report findings to relevant personnel to prevent recurrence.
- Ensure continuous improvement by monitoring and reviewing the OSH Policy for relevance and performance.

10.0 REPORTS OF EMPLOYEES

10.1 Retrospective Application for Works at Transport Depot - 240 (Lot 28) Clayton Road, Helena Valley

File Code	CI 3.240
Author	Sushmitha Jayaram, Planning Officer Compliance
Senior Employee	Mark Luzi, Director Statutory Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	1. Site Plan ↓ 2. Conditional approval by DBCA ↓

Landowner	Broadwest Corporation Pty Ltd
Applicant	Dynamic Planning Consultant
Zoning	Rural Residential
Area	27,519sqm
Use Class	Transport Depot (Non-Conforming use)

SUMMARY

Retrospective planning approval is being sought for a dome shelter, additional sea container (office), and hardstand on a Rural-Residential property in Helena Valley. The unauthorised structures represent an expansion to the depot use, which is considered incompatible with the surrounding rural residential and residential area.

The non-conforming use rights allow the landowner to operate a transport depot from the site, however the Shire can limit works and expansions.

Water management is critical given the site abuts Helena River.

It is recommended that Council:

1. refuses the dome shelter and office; and
2. for reasons outlined below, approves the hardstand and additional stormwater treatment with conditions as shown in the site plan (**Attachment 1**).

BACKGROUND

The site is bound by Helena River to the south and Clayton Road to the north. South of Clayton Road is Rural Residential (RR2) and the north is predominantly zoned Residential (R5).

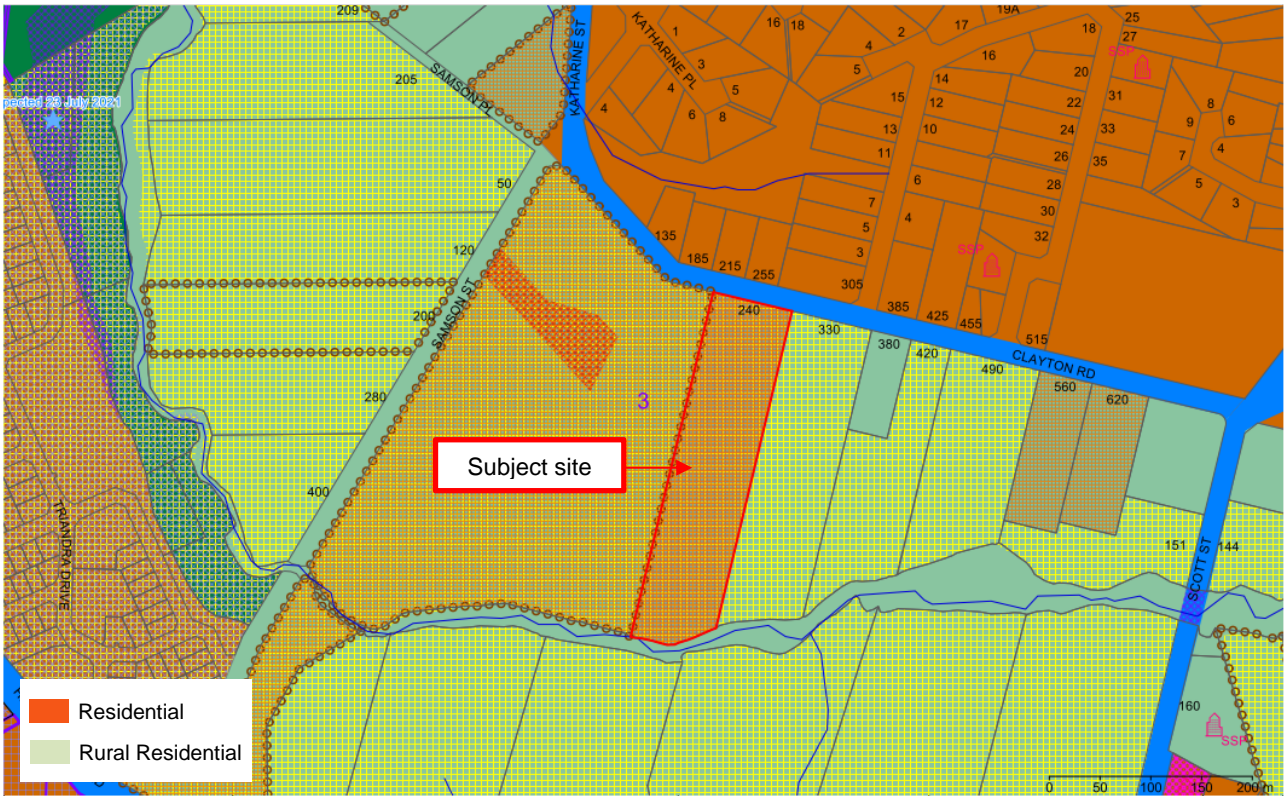


Image 1: Locality Plan: Zoning north and south of Clayton Road

The subject site has been listed on the Shire's non-conforming use right register as a Transport Depot since 1970.

A non-conforming land use (NCLU) is where land was lawfully used in the past, but due to subsequent zoning changes, the original use is now prohibited under the current zoning (Rural Residential). The *Local Planning Scheme No.4 (LPS4)* triggers the need for a planning approval where an extension, alteration or expansion of the use is proposed.

Description of proposal

Retrospective planning approval is sought for:

- Container Mounted Dome Shelter (25.8m wide, 12.2m deep and 8.1m high),
- Concrete Hardstand (32.7m wide, 16m deep). Four soak wells under hardstand area at (1.8m wide, 1.5 deep) each, and
- Additional sea container (Office) within concrete apron



Image 2: Dome Shelter and Office



Image 3: Concrete hardstand

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- *Planning and Development Act 2005 (the Act);*
- *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015 (the Regulations);*
- *Local Planning Scheme No.4 (LPS4)*
- *Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS)*
- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006*

Statutory Implications

The proposals constitute development (dome shelter and office), and works (concrete hardstand) under the Regulations and requires development approval. A penalty by way of a retrospective fee has been paid in accordance with the Regulations and the Shire's fee schedule. The Shire maintains the right to prosecute the landowner should there be a breach of a planning approval issued.

Non-Conforming Use Right (NCUR):

A transport depot is not permitted (i.e. an 'X' use) in the Rural Residential Zone under LPS4, however, a NCUR exists. Pursuant to clause 4.9 an expansion or alteration to the use or associated structures is not permitted unless the Shire has exercised its discretion by granting planning approval in addition to the approval required under the MRS.

This application is presented to Council as officers do not have delegation to determine proposals involving the expansion of non-conforming uses.

Council must have due regard to the following matters, amongst others, when determining the dome shelter, and office. As per Cl 67 (2) of *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015* (the Regulations):

- “(m) *The compatibility of the development with its setting, including —*
 - (i) *the compatibility of the development with the desired future character of its setting; and*
 - (ii) *the relationship of the development to development on adjoining land or on other land in the locality including, but not limited to, the likely effect of the height, bulk, scale, orientation and appearance of the development;”*

- “(n) *The amenity of the locality including the following —*
 - (i) *environmental impacts of the development;*
 - (ii) *the character of the locality;*
 - (iii) *social impacts of the development;”*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The landowners may wish to exercise their right of appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal. Defending Council's decision may therefore incur legal costs.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 3 - Built environment

Objective 3.3 – Regulated land use and building control to meet the current and future needs of the community

Strategy 3.3.1 – Incorporate appropriate planning controls for land use that meet current and future needs without compromising the highly valued character of the natural and built environment

The Foothills Growth Strategy is a relevant Council adopted strategy affecting the subject lot and is discussed in the assessment below.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Supporting economic development needs to be weighed up against the impacts on the immediate surrounds.

- Aspects such as stormwater management within the concrete hardstand area are potential improvements.
- Compatibility of the development (dome shelter and office) and upholding land use controls need to be in keeping with the expectations of nearby residents.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Compliance and Reputational risks – Supporting retrospective approval by allowing an expansion of a non-conforming use, otherwise not permitted in the zone, is a reputational risk to the Shire. Whilst compliance issues have been raised in relation to the hardstand, supporting it will improve stormwater management.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Minor	Low
Action / Strategy		
Refuse the dome shelter and office. Approve the concrete hardstand.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The proposal was advertised to 18 surrounding landowners likely affected for a period of 14 days. The Shire received four objections noting:



Comments	Response
<p>Visual Impact of the structure on adjoining land</p>  <p>Image 4: Structure when viewed from neighbouring property</p>  <p>Image 5: Structure when viewed from neighbouring property despite vegetation screening</p>	<p>Agreed. While the dome shelter complies with the setback and height provisions of the LPS4, existing vegetation along the boundaries of the neighbouring properties provides limited screening of the structure.</p>
<p>Noise, dust and light overspill generated from the dome structure and general operations:</p>	<p>Noise measurements taken confirm no breaches of the <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i>.</p>



Image 6: Impact of light from the structure on nearby residents

“The noise from them working on drilling rigs and support trucks directly travels into our house”

“This hardstand area and dome shelter expand the non-conforming use of the property and effect the neighbourhood (a quiet residential area- with a semi-rural feel) in a detrimental way by way of increasing noise, dust and traffic movement (the depot is in use 24 hours a day) and take the property further away from the intended purpose of the zoning it is in.”

“Significant and disruptive noise as a result of both the industrial activities and the recreational activities of the employees working at the property”

Impacts from light overspill and dust are noted.

<p>Effluent and diesel washing into Helena River</p>	<p>Noted. The application relates to the dome shelter, office and concrete hardstand only. The wash down bay has been previously approved; effluents and traps are largely in place.</p>
<p>Use of site as a drilling business.</p>	<p>Noted. The land use falls within the definition of a ‘Transport Depot’ as per LPS4.</p>
<p>Fire risk due to type of operation</p>	<p>Noted. The dome shelter is an uninhabitable structure (bushfire requirements do not apply), however, the office will be subject to compliance with the Shire’s Bushfire Hazard provisions.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, operations during total fire ban days need to be complied with as per the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>.</p>

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions on behalf of the Swan River Trust have no objection subject to conditions (**Attachment 2**).

COMMENT

Related provisions of the Shire’s planning framework are examined below.

LPS4	
Requirement/Clause	Assessment
<p>Objectives of the zone</p> <p>4.2.2 Rural Residential</p> <p>(a) to provide for residential use in a rural setting, in suitable and appropriate locations in reasonable proximity to services.</p> <p>(b) to conserve the natural environment as far as possible for the enjoyment of residents as well as the maintenance of ecological and landscape values, particularly by the protection of native vegetation (trees and understorey) and by water-sensitive development.</p> <p>(c) To provide for other uses compatible with and complementary to rural living, subject to appropriate land capability and suitability and protection of residential amenity.</p> <p>(d) To ensure conservation of soil, watercourses and other water resources and the protection of ecological and landscape values.</p>	<p>The Transport Depot use is not permitted within a Rural/Residential zone.</p> <p>These matters are discussed below.</p> <p>As above.</p> <p>Hardstand areas may assist in dust suppression and conditions could improve the water management on site.</p>
<p>4.9 Extensions and changes to a non-conforming use</p> <p>4.9.1 A person must not —</p> <p>(a) alter or extend a non-conforming use;</p> <p>(b) erect, alter or extend a building used in conjunction with or in furtherance of a non-conforming use;</p> <p>4.9.2 An application for planning approval under this clause is to be advertised in accordance with clause 9.4.</p>	<p>(a) The unauthorised development and works are an expansion to the use.</p> <p>(b) The dome shelter, and office is an expansion, whereas, the hardstand is an alteration.</p> <p>4.9.2The proposal has been advertised to neighbours likely affected by the structure. Comments have been assessed above.</p>

<p>5.7.5 Watercourse protection</p> <p>5.7.5.1 The minimum setback for all buildings and earthworks (including landfill) from the top of the bank of any watercourse shall be:</p> <p>(b) in the absence of a specific setback for a particular watercourse in a watercourse hierarchy and protection strategy adopted by the Shire, 20 metres in the Residential zone and 30 metres in all other zones, or such greater distance as may be required by the Shire in the case of watercourses within the Middle Helena Catchment Area or the Mundaring Weir Catchment Area.</p> <p>5.7.5.4 Development adjacent to watercourses</p> <p>shall incorporate appropriate measures to minimise runoff and erosion and to protect water quality, including:</p> <p>(a) provision of contour banks to intercept and safely dispose of stormwater runoff; and</p> <p>(b) planting of local native vegetation to provide nutrient stripping and to act as a barrier to seepage and runoff.</p>	<p>Complies, as the dome shelter is setback at least 100m from the watercourse.</p> <p>Should the hardstand be approved, stormwater management would be required.</p> <p>Concerns raised by DBCA in relation to the lack of vegetation along the embankment are noted and it is recommended this ongoing requirement be reiterated in conditions of approval. As the site is now subject to active compliance, revegetation of the embankment matter will be actively monitored.</p>
<p>6.5.13 Non-residential buildings, in which workers, occupiers or visitors may be exposed to bushfire hazard, within the Special Control Area shall be assessed in accordance with clause 6.5.12, as if it were residential development.</p>	<p>The sea container offices do not comply with the standards stipulated with Clause 6.5.12.</p>
<p>CI 67 (2) of Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015:</p> <p>(m) the compatibility of the development with its setting, including —</p> <p>(i) the compatibility of the development with the desired future character of its setting; and</p>	<p>Due to servicing limitations the locality is likely to remain Rural-Residential and Residential for the foreseeable future. However, the Shire's <i>Foothills Growth Strategy</i> identifies the locality for investigation into 'Medium Density Residential'.</p> <p>Supporting the expansion of a transport depot would conflict with the desired future 'Residential' character.</p>

<p>(ii) the relationship of the development to development on adjoining land or on other land in the locality including, but not limited to, the likely effect of the height, bulk, scale, orientation and appearance of the development;</p>	<p>Adjoining lots include single storey structures scattered across a rural / residential landscape, separated by open spaces and medium-large stands of remnant vegetation.</p> <p>The dome shelter is white, 8.2m in height and has a footprint of 314sqm. The dome has a significant impact on adjoining land in terms of height, bulk, scale, and appearance. Domes can be suitable in industrial areas in certain circumstances, but an industrial-scale dome in this location is considered to be incongruous with the rural/residential character of the locality.</p>
<p>(n) the amenity of the locality including the following —</p> <p>(i) environmental impacts of the development;</p> <p>(ii) the character of the locality;</p> <p>(iii) social impacts of the development;</p>	<p>Expansion of non-conforming uses can prolong their operation and should generally be resisted.</p> <p>As stated above</p> <p>Non-conforming use rights cannot be extinguished by the Shire. Hence, some impacts on surrounding landowners in this location will remain unavoidable.</p>

While the operation of the non-conforming use should be discouraged, improvements on the land can be entertained, particularly if they serve to ease land use conflict or improve environmental performance.

It is therefore recommended Council refuses the dome and office structures but approves the associated hardstand with corresponding stormwater drainage and erosion control conditions.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

**COUNCIL DECISION
RECOMMENDATION**

C6.04.23

Moved by

Cr Ellery

Seconded by

Cr Cook

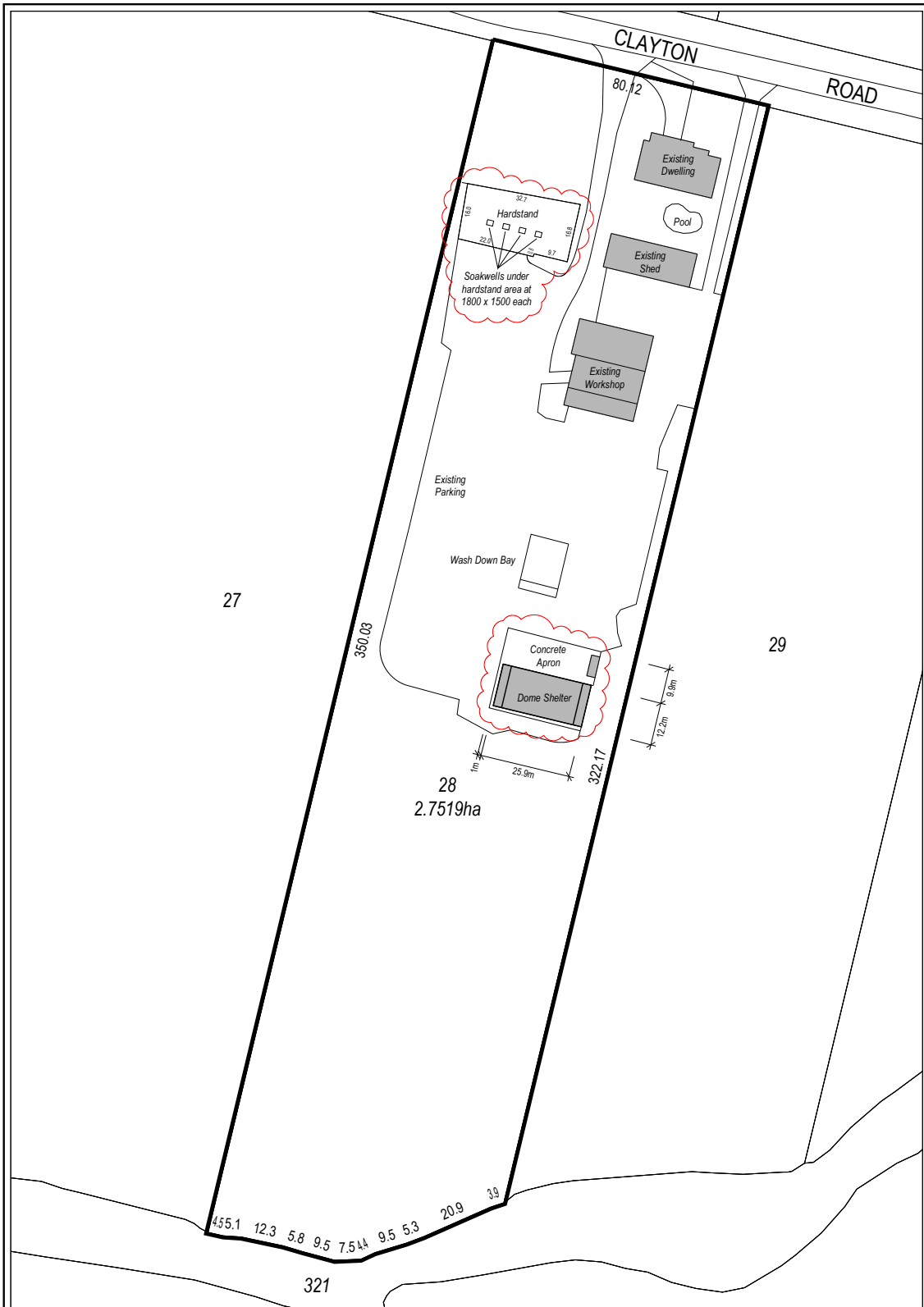
That Council:



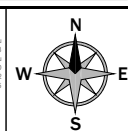
- a) Refuses the dome shelter and office proposed at No.240 (Lot 28) Clayton Road, Helena Valley for the following reasons:
1. The proposal does not satisfy Clause 67 (2) (m) and (n) of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015*, as the dome and transportable container have an adverse and undesirable impact on the Rural Residential amenity and character;
 2. The proposal does not satisfy the *Local Planning Scheme No.4* Rural Residential zoning objectives, as the unauthorised structure and extension to the non-conforming use is incompatible with existing and future character of the locality;
 3. Approval of an industrial-scale dome shelter within a Rural Residential zone will set an undesirable precedent; and
 4. The proposed office within the concrete apron does not satisfy bushfire requirements when accommodating staff and visitors as required by Clause 6.5.12 of *Local Planning Scheme No.4*;
- b) Advises the landowner that the dome shelter and transportable office must be removed within 30 days from the date of this decision to avoid the Shire commencing formal enforcement actions; and
- c) Approves the application for the retrospective hardstand at No.240 (Lot 28) Clayton Road, Helena Valley subject to the following conditions:
1. Stormwater run-off from constructed impervious surfaces generated by small rainfall events (that is, the first 15 mm of rainfall) must be retained and/or detained and treated (if required) at-source as much as practical and will not be permitted to enter the river untreated;
 2. All wastewater is to be disposed of offsite and the existing wastewater infrastructure system (i.e. hydrocarbon traps/holding tank) is to be upgraded to accommodate the increased volume of industrial wastewater generated from both the washdown area and the dome shelter hardstand to the requirements and satisfaction of the Shire of Mundaring; and
 3. Within 6 months of the date of this approval, initial progress be made with landscaping along the embankment to the satisfaction of the Shire and should it be required, an updated landscape plan detailing revegetation of the entire embankment along the southern edge of the development area, as approved by the Shire of Mundaring on advice of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, is to be implemented.

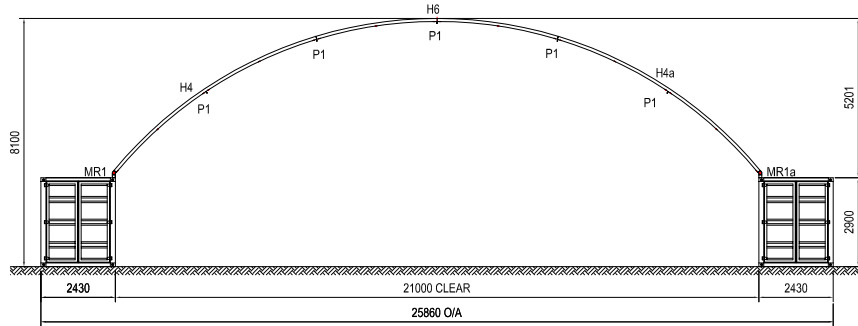
CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

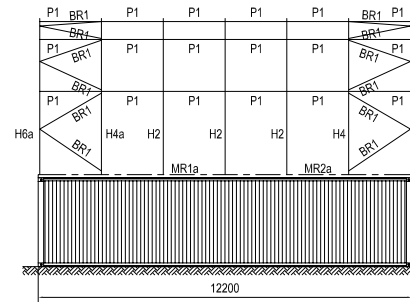
Against: Nil



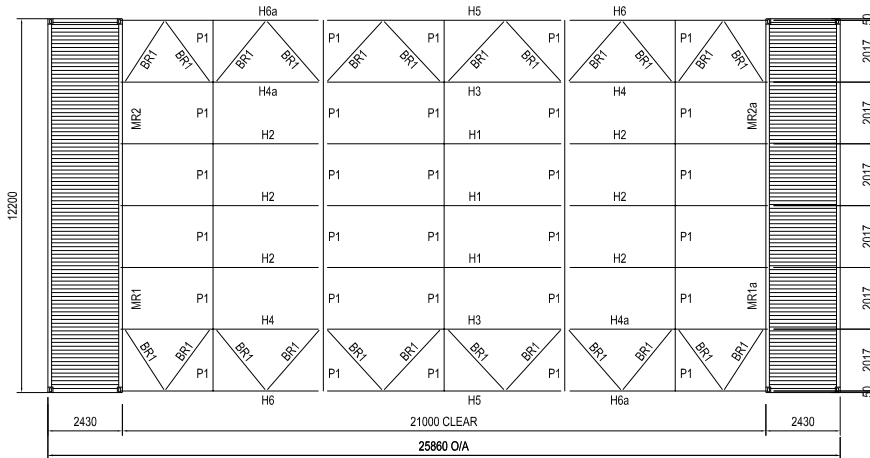
<p>SITE PLAN LOT 28 (#240) CLAYTON ROAD HELENA VALLEY</p> <p><small>COPYRIGHT RESERVED BASE PLAN COURTESY OF LANDGATE</small></p>		<p>SCALE: 1:1000 @ A3 DATE: 20th SEPTEMBER 2022 FILE: 1550_20.09.2022.dwg DRAW: - SB CHECKED: -</p>	 <p><small>E: admin@dynamicplanning.net.au P: (08) 9276 1433 W: www.dynamicplanning.net.au SUITE 10 29 COLLIER ROAD MORLEY WA 6062 ABN: 59 159 417 709</small></p>	
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FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE 1:150



RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE 1:150



PLAN VIEW
SCALE 1:150

RFA - REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

DATE : 30 AUG 2021	CUSTOMER ORDER NUMBER: PRECISION DRILLING PWO : D4964HF		
ATTENTION: MATHEW FEENEY			
CLIENT : PRECISION DRILLING AUSTRALIA			
STATUS	TICK	SIGNATURE	DATE
APPROVED WITH NO COMMENTS			
APPROVED WITH COMMENTS			
RESUBMISSION REQUIRED			
DRAWING NUMBER	DRAWING TITLE	REVISION	
D4964HF_GA01.1	PLAN VIEW AND ELEVATIONS	0	

↑
PLEASE SIGN ON THE SPACE PROVIDED.

PLEASE READ!

NOTES:

1. THIS DRAWING IS FOR CLIENT'S CONFIRMATION OF THE LAYOUT ONLY.
2. KINDLY FILL-OUT THE RFA-REQUEST FOR APPROVAL (TICK STATUS, SIGNATURE (WET SIGN & WET DATE), SCAN & SEND BACK TO DOMESHELTER AUSTRALIA.
3. PLEASE CHECK ALL THE DETAILS SUCH AS: SHELTER WIDTH, CONTAINER OR COLUMN HEIGHT, SITE LOCATION, WIND REGION AND OTHER FACTORS OR DETAILS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE STRUCTURE OR THE ENGINEERING.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE EXCLUDED IN THE DSA SCOPE UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE

- REO CAGES
- CAST-IN FOOTING BOLTS OR CHEMICAL ANCHOR BOLTS
- GROUT
- HOLD DOWN CONTAINER BRACKETS
- BALLAST/ GROUND ANCHORS
- GUTTERS
- DOWNPIPES

IF THE ITEMS IN THE ABOVE WHICH YOU FEEL SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YOUR REQUIRED SCOPE, PLEASE DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR CURRENT SHELTER SPECIALIST

**THIS DRAWING IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY
NOT TO BE USED IN CONSTRUCTION /
FABRICATION**

TERRAIN CATEGORY :	2.0	
IMPORTANCE LEVEL :	1.0	
WIND REGION :	A	
PROJECT LOCATION:	HELENA VALLEY WESTERN AUSTRALIA	
NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
DRAWN	JCG	30 AUG 2021
CHK'D	MAM	30 AUG 2021

8 GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY, CUNDERDIN WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6407
EMAIL: drafting@domeshtelter.com.au PH: +61 8 9690 1100

CLIENT:	PRECISION DRILLING AUSTRALIA	DO NOT SCALE DRAWING UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN MILLIMETERS.
PROJECT TITLE:	CONTAINER MOUNTED DOMESHELTER REGION A WELDED RAIL 21m x 12.20m CONTAINER OUT	PROJECT NO: D4964HF
DRAWING TITLE:	PLAN VIEW AND ELEVATIONS	SCALE : 1:150 SHEET SIZE: A3
DRAWING NO.	D4964HF_GA01.1	REVISION : 0

REVISIONS				
REV	DATE	DRAWN	DESCRIPTION	
0	30 AUG 2021	JCG	ISSUED FOR CLIENT'S REVIEW/APPROVAL	

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Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



Your ref: 27-50028-2
Our ref: 2022/2393
Enquiries: Jennifer Higbid
Phone: 9219 8763
Email: jennifer.higbid@dbca.wa.gov.au

Ms Sam Fagan
Secretary
Western Australian Planning Commission
Locked Bag 2506
PERTH WA 6001

Attention: Rosa Rigali

Dear Ms Fagan

CLAUSE 30A(2)a(ii) – DOME SHELTER AND HARDSTAND – LOT 28 (240) CLAYTON ROAD, HELENA VALLEY

Thank you for providing the Swan River Trust (the Trust) with the opportunity to comment on the above development application received on 9 January 2023.

The proposal is being processed pursuant to Clause 30A(2)a(ii) of the Metropolitan Region Scheme, as the proposed development is on a lot that abuts waters within the Swan Canning Development Control Area (DCA).

DBCA understands that a retrospective approval for imported fill onto the site of the dome shelter was granted by the Shire of Mundaring in 2003 and that a condition of approval included a landscape plan requiring native species to be planted along the embankment. Recent aerial imagery shows only scattered vegetation along the embankment. Revegetation along the embankment is required to provide an improved environmental buffer to the river and is an important management measure to mitigate the risks associated with the proposal.

Prior to approval of the application, the proposal should be amended to include appropriate environmental controls to ensure capture, treatment and safe disposal of wastewater and petrochemicals from the site. These controls should include bunding of the washdown area and dome shelter, and an appropriate treatment train for the management of wastewater.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) has assessed the application on behalf of the Trust against *State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan-Canning River System* and Swan Canning Development Control Area policies, and you are advised that DBCA has no objections to the proposal, subject to the above amendments and the following:

CONDITIONS

1. Stormwater run-off from constructed impervious surfaces generated by small rainfall events (that is, the first 15 mm of rainfall) must be retained and/or detained and treated (if required) at-source as much as practical and will not be permitted to enter the river untreated.

Rivers and Estuaries Branch
Locked Bag 104, Bentley Delivery Centre, Western Australia 6983
Phone: (08) 9219 9000 Email: rivers.planning@dbca.wa.gov.au
www.dbca.wa.gov.au

2. All wastewater is to be disposed of offsite and the existing wastewater infrastructure system (i.e. hydrocarbon traps/holding tank) is to be upgraded to accommodate the increased volume of industrial wastewater generated from both the washdown area and the dome shelter to the requirements and satisfaction of the Shire of Mundaring.
3. Within 6 months of the date of this approval, a landscape plan detailing revegetation of the entire embankment along the southern edge of the development area, as approved by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, is to be implemented (**Advice Note 4**).

ADVICE TO APPLICANT

1. With regards to **Condition 4**, the landscape plan to the satisfaction of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions should include:
 - a plan showing the planting locations;
 - a native flora species list;
 - planting densities and species composition for the embankment;
 - planting schedule, including any weed control that may be required; and
 - ongoing maintenance requirements.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact the officer above. Please quote the above reference number in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely



Hayley Williams
A/Manager, Statutory Assessments
As delegate of the Swan River Trust
Under Section 28B(2) of the SCRM Act 2006

15 February 2023

10.2 Annual Electors' Meeting 8 March 2023 Decisions

File Code	GV.MTG 2.2023
Author	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Senior Employee	Jonathan Throssell, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	Nil

SUMMARY

The Annual Electors' Meeting (AEM) was held on 8 March 2023.

During the meeting, electors considered 14 motions, of which all were carried. This report provides a response to the 14 motions (decisions) including, where appropriate, a process for further consideration by Council.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with section 5.33 of the *Local Government Act 1995* Council must consider all decisions made at an AEM at the next ordinary Council meeting or if that is not practicable, at the following ordinary meeting or a special meeting called for the express purpose of considering the electors' meeting decisions.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Act 1995

5.33. Decisions made at electors' meetings

- (1) *All decisions made at an electors' meeting are to be considered at the next ordinary council meeting or, if that is not practicable —*
 - (a) *at the first ordinary council meeting after that meeting; or*
 - (b) *at a special meeting called for that purpose, whichever happens first.*
- (2) *If at a meeting of the council a local government makes a decision in response to a decision made at an electors' meeting, the reasons for the decision are to be recorded in the minutes of the council meeting.*

It is relevant to note that Council is not bound by the decisions of the AEM. Council is required to 'consider' the AEM decisions, but is not obliged to make a decision in response to any of the AEM decisions. For example, Council might choose to note the AEM decision, but take no further action.

However, should Council make a decision in response to an AEM decision, it must record the reasons for the Council decision in the minutes of the Council meeting.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are resource and cost implications associated with implementing a number of the AEM decisions, which are not necessarily considered by electors at the electors meeting, should Council determine to do so. Should Council wish to make a decision to pursue an AEM decision that has a budget and/or resource implications, then that matter should be referred to Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework workshops so that it can be considered alongside other priorities and resourcing allocations.

If there are no budget or resource allocations, a separate report containing relevant professional advice from officers should be presented to a Council meeting.

It should be noted for a number of the decisions, additional officer time would be required to research the issue and prepare a detailed report for Council consideration.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 4 - Governance

Objective 4.4 – High standard of governance and accountability

Strategy 4.4.8 – Compliance with the Local Government Act 1995 and all relevant legislation and regulations

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Financial, Reputation

There is potential financial and reputational risk in Council making decisions on the matters resolved at the annual electors' meeting based on limited information regarding the financial and resource implications of such decisions.

Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Unlikely	Moderate	Moderate

Action / Strategy

Should Council wish to consider any of the AEM decisions to an extent beyond that recommended in this report, it is recommended Council request officers prepare a detailed report for consideration at a future Council meeting to ensure Council is able to make an informed decision.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

14 decisions were made at the AEM held 8 March 2023.

It is open to Council to decide how it chooses to respond to these AEM decisions. For example, Council may determine to 'note' the AEM decision, meaning no further action would be taken. In such circumstances Council might choose to provide a reason for this outcome, such as there being no provision for the proposed expenditure in the Corporate

Business Plan or Long Term Financial Plan; or because the decision is unlikely to be able to be implemented; or because the decision is outside of Council's powers (*ultra vires*).

If the decision has resourcing implications, it can be referred to Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework workshops. The purpose of these workshops is for Council to consider and prioritise what services, assets and projects it wishes to deliver in the medium term (4 years) and how they will be resourced. The outcome of the workshops is the adoption by Council of the Annual budget and the Corporate Business Plan (CBP), which gives effect to those priorities. The CBP would demonstrate the outcome of any AEM decision referred to this process. The annual budget and CBP are generally adopted in the period June to August of each year.

Decision 1: Creating a community focussed placemaking strategy for the SoM

AEM 2023.03.03

The Darlington Residents and Ratepayers Association RRA propose that the Shire of Mundaring:

1. Allocate funds for the development of a comprehensive placemaking strategy for the Shire.
2. Adopt a community-focused approach to the design of public spaces, taking into account the unique cultural, historical, and social characteristics of the Perth hills and its residents.
3. For public places, follow a design process that prioritises aesthetic beauty as a goal and, where possible, uses locally sourced materials, labour, craftspeople, and construction techniques.

Advice Director Statutory Services

1. The Shire continues to embrace community input and place-making principles, particularly in the planning for the revitalisation of the Shire's Mundaring Town Centre Initiative and the Mundaring Multipurpose Community Facility;
2. When delivering improvements to public spaces across the shire, the Shire's practice is to consult and work with community stakeholders, and endeavour to meet local community needs and aspirations within resource and budget constraints.
3. The need for a standalone placemaking strategy is not currently identified as a required action under any adopted plan/strategy.
4. The Shire's Public Open Space Strategy does identify the importance of revisiting public spaces in Precinct Areas (i.e. around local centres). The timing of a review of the existing Precinct Plans has not been prioritised due to the need to start preparing for a major review of the Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No.4.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted, acknowledging the Shire will continue to draw upon place making principles in the delivery of the Mundaring Town Centre Initiative and the Mundaring Multipurpose Community Facility project and will contemplate a discrete place-making strategy as part of the review of LPS4 scheduled for 2025/26.

Decision 2: Architecture and Urban Design Competition for the proposed Mundaring Cultural Precinct.

AEM 2023.03.04

The Darlington Residents and Ratepayers Association RRA propose that the Shire of Mundaring:

1. Allocate funds for the organisation of an Architecture and Urban Design Competition for the proposed Mundaring Cultural Precinct
2. Prioritise the celebration and preservation of the rich history, cultural heritage, & character of the Perth Hills.
3. Prioritise a holistic design solution for the Mundaring Cultural Precinct which will enhance and build upon the heritage of the Hills and generate significant community engagement.

Advice Director Strategic and Community Services

1. In accordance with the Shire's Corporate Business Plan 2022/23-2025/26, work has already commenced on Stage 2A of the Mundaring Multipurpose Community Facility and Town Centre Revitalisation project, which is due for completion in September 2023. This includes the delivery of three concept sketches for the multipurpose facility and a cultural precinct masterplan, informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement.

It would however be open to Council to consider running a design competition for future aspects of the Mundaring Town Centre Revitalisation Project.

An architectural /urban design competition, when conducted appropriately, can generate a broader range and higher level of innovation in design solutions and can generate public interest in the project. However, it is not universally appropriate and would need to be robustly evaluated against other methods of procuring the design for the project, with the advantages, disadvantages, risks, cost and capacity to implement requiring assessment.

2. The character and heritage values of the Mundaring Town Centre have already been considered as part of significant background work and community consultation for the Multi-purpose Community Facility (MPCF) and Town Centre Revitalisation project;

The findings are discussed throughout Shire documents such as the Mundaring Town Initiative (2017), Mundaring Activity Centre Plan (2018) and MPCF Stage 1 documents [Consultation Report (2020); Needs Opportunities and Constraints (2020); Property Strategy and Land Assembly Plan (2021)].

Celebrating the history, character, and heritage values of the Mundaring Town Centre have been and will remain as an important consideration when designing the MPCF and planning the Cultural Precinct and will be informed by the findings of the background work already undertaken and ongoing community and stakeholder consultation.

3. Council has recently endorsed an Engagement Plan for Stage 2 of the Mundaring Town Centre Revitalisation Project, which ensures significant community engagement will inform development of a multipurpose community facility and masterplan for the cultural precinct. As per point 2 above, celebrating the character, history and heritage values have been and will continue to be an important consideration for this project.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted, acknowledging that:

- it would be open to Council to consider an Architecture and Urban Design Competition for the proposed Mundaring Cultural Precinct during future stages of the project;
- celebrating the character, history and heritage values have been and will continue to be an important consideration for this project; and
- Council has recently endorsed an Engagement Plan for Stage 2 of the Mundaring Town Centre Revitalisation Project, which ensures significant community engagement will inform development of a masterplan for the cultural precinct, as well as the proposed multipurpose community facility.

Decision 3: Council consider adopting an Access to Records and Information Policy.

AEM 2023.03.05

That Council considers adopting an Access to Records and Information Policy.

That the Policy developed will ensure:

- Elected Members Statutory access to records is quite clear and it will implement the objectives of the Local Government Act to have greater community participation in the decisions and affairs of Local Governments.
- greater accountability for Local Government to Elected Members and their communities
- that no contracts will be entered into where the supplier attempts to impose Commercial in Confidence clauses that would hinder community access to the terms and conditions of any awarded contract (This may be included in the Procurement Policy)
- that all records held by the Council are public records, unless decided otherwise by Council, noting that the CEO can mark a document confidential but that decision must be sent to Council for review.
- all the Local Government records and information are accessible by Elected Members unless access is restricted by a Court, Tribunal or Council absolute majority or express written law.
- all Local Government Contracts are accessible by Elected Members without fetter as prescribed by the Local Government Act. S5.92(2)
- requests for access to records by the Community will only be refused by the CEO if the information requested is not a Public Record by written law or Court or Tribunal order or Council resolution.
- that Council requires a monthly summary of requests received and the decision made by the CEO and the reasons for any refusal.
- that where the CEO requires an application for a record to make a FOI request then

the CEO must first comply with this Policy as to the public release of a record.

- refunded any fees charged where Council or other decision maker decides the record or information is a public record.

Advice Director Corporate Services

The scope of the proposed 'Access to Records and information Policy' is generally captured by existing legislation, regulations and Shire documents. This includes but is not limited to:

- *State Records Act 2000* (the Shire is a government organisation for the purposes of the *State Records Act 2000*)
- *Local Government Act 1995* (what is required to be published on the official website and what cannot be published [s. 5.96A] and what information can be accessed by council and committee members [s. 5.92])
- *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* (what information is available for public inspection [r. 29] and limits on the right to inspect public documents [r.29A])
- Records Keeping Plan (information and documents are held in the Shire's electronic and paper-based systems and are managed in accordance with the Shire's Record Keeping Plan)
- Freedom of Information Statement (lists documents available outside the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* either online or by inspection)
- Shire of Mundaring Governance Framework (provision of information to council members to make a considered and informed decision).

The *Local Government Act 1995* also prescribes the specific circumstances by which a matter is deemed to be confidential and further, while the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cwlth) does not apply to WA local governments, the Shire does try to adhere to its principles wherever possible and reasonable.

Additionally, the current local government reforms being introduced by the WA Government will apply further requirements for the Shire to have certain information publically available. Based on information included in the Explanatory Memorandum for the *Local Government Amendment Bill 2023*, this may include provisions in the regulations to publish:

- Chief Executive Officer Key Performance Indicators;
- a register of leases the local government is party to;
- a register of grants and sponsorship given by a local government;
- a register of all the contracts for goods and services the local government has entered into; and
- registers of matters relating to the function of the local government under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.

These reforms will also contain a requirement for a Communication Agreement to be agreed between Council and the CEO, that will "clearly specify the information that is to be provided to councillors, how it will be provided, and the timeframes for when it will be provided".*

*source Full reform Proposals – Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website.

Some items listed in the proposed scope of the policy may be inconsistent with State or federal law. For example, a requirement that all records are public documents unless

determined by Council and that the CEOs decision to mark a document confidential is to be reviewed by Council may be considered contrary to section 5.95 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as the proposed policy would duplicate existing legislative requirements for council members and members of the public accessing local government information and, in some cases, would conflict with existing and proposed legislation.

Decision 4: Advocate for an Audit of WALGA by the Office of the Auditor General

AEM 2023.03.06

That the Shire of Mundaring Council supports:

1. Financial and performance audits being carried out annually on WALGA
2. And advocates for WALGA to request the Office of the Auditor General to undertake financial audits of WALGA and any related activities.

AND THAT the Shire of Mundaring WALGA zone representatives represent and support the Council position in these matters at any WALGA zone meeting. That the delegates reports back to Council any outcomes or discussion about these matters to the following Council meeting.

That, if the Electors Motion is supported by Council, that the Shire of Mundaring CEO conveys in writing the specific contents of the Council resolution to the WALGA State Council and the WALGA CEO as a matter of urgency.

Advice Director Corporate Services

A similar motion was presented at the 2022 AEM as follows;

“Decision 11: Lobby State Government and WALGA to request an Audit of WALGA

AEM 2022.03.13

Council will lobby the State Government and WALGA to request an Audit of WALGA by the Office of the Auditor General in the near future. That such an Audit be conducted prior to any re-organisation that may be contemplated following suggested changes to the Act.

Response Director Corporate Services

As an organisation formed under the Associations Incorporation Act, WALGA are required to have an annual financial audit undertaken by an approved auditor. The annual financial statement and the audit report are made available to all members at the WALGA Annual General Meeting and are publicly available on their website.

Further, as WALGA is not a state or local government entity it is unlikely whether the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) would have any lawful capacity to undertake such an audit, although they may be able to do so on a fee for service basis if so engaged by WALGA.

WALGA could undertake an additional audit on a voluntary basis, potentially using private audit firms if the OAG were unable to undertake such an audit.”

The motion to undertake the audit as per the AEM motion was considered by Council at the April 2022 meeting and was lost 2 votes to 6.

It is again noted that WALGA is not a recognised state or local government entity and therefore does not fall within the jurisdiction of the functions and powers of the Auditor General. WALGA's financial report is audited by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, one of Australia's largest and most recognised auditing and consulting firms. In addition WALGA publishes an annual report inclusive of audited financial statements that is on the public record.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as Council has previously considered this matter and because WALGA's audited financial statements are already provided and publically available.

Decision 5: Shire of Mundaring remove the LED Sign recently installed at Morgan John Morgan Reserve

AEM 2023.03.07

That the Shire of Mundaring remove the LED sign recently installed at Morgan John Morgan Reserve.

Advice Director Strategic and Community Services and Director Infrastructure Services
At the 14 February 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved (C18.02.23) "That Council requests community feedback regarding the three installed LED Event Signage locations be included within the scope of the Signage Strategy development." The development of the Signage Strategy had commenced and is due for completion in July 2023. Any changes to the LED signs, including potential removal and/or relocation would therefore be informed by the outcomes of the Signage Strategy.

The installation of community messaging boards was a capital project to address requests from the community and council members to improve promotion of community events and communications to the community. In December 2022, three LED notice boards were installed at Sculpture Park, Mundaring; Morgan John Morgan Reserve, Glen Forrest; and Pioneer Park, Mt Helena.

These boards supplement and complement existing communication platforms sharing information relevant to their location and topics of broader community interest. Examples include, but are not limited to, display of emergency warnings, promotion of Shire events, sharing community events supported by the Shire, highlighting National days of significance, raising awareness of burning periods and community engagement opportunities.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted, acknowledging any changes to the LED signs, including potential removal and/or relocation, will be informed by the outcomes of the Signage Strategy (currently in development).

Decision 6: Material and Administrative changes to the Hills Community Nursing Home at 90 Mucciarone Lane, Parkerville

AEM 2023.03.08

That the proposed change of use at the property at 90 Mucciarone Lane, Parkerville is referred back to the shire's planning process.

Advice Director Statutory Services

The Shire is not aware of any proposed material and administrative changes to the Hills Community Nursing Home.

In October 2006 Council approved a residential building at 90 Mucciarone Lane, Parkerville, providing for the full time care of 12 adults with intellectual and physical disabilities and the overnight stay of 2 carers.

A Residential Building is a defined use in the State's Residential Design Codes, which allows for a building to be permanently occupied by seven or more persons who do not comprise a single family.

There is currently no evidence which suggests that any changes have occurred or are proposed which result in the approval and/or Local Planning Scheme No.4 not being complied with.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted, as the Shire has approved the operation of Residential Building on the site. Where residents allege anti-social behaviour is occurring these events should be referred to WA Police for investigation.

Decision 7: Develop directions on policy regarding display cabinets for sporting clubs.

AEM 2023.03.09

To develop directions on policy regarding display cabinets for the sporting club trophies or for memorabilia. Eg. Elsie Austin where two walls are all windows, the closets take up the third wall and the kitchen window takes up a good portion of the other wall.

Response Advice Director Strategic and Community Services

As per the *Local Government Act 1995*, 2.7 (2b) one role of Council is to determine the local government's policies.

As such, Council could form the view that development of a policy regarding display cabinets for sporting clubs could be referred to the Governance Committee for consideration, prioritisation and subsequent recommendation to Council.

A policy would need to consider the requirements of all users of a facility as well as deal with the issues that having cabinets would likely create (for example, reduction in available floor space; security and insurance of contents; construction; maintenance; liability; and operation).

It may also be problematic to have one policy that provides one set of guidelines for the wide variety of facilities this may affect. The facilities vary in their size, wall space, design, and use.

Alternatively, Council could form the view that displays cabinets for sporting clubs is an operational matter and suggest that clubs in the first instance make their requests direct to Shire staff, outlining their ideas / desired outcomes and see what can be done to achieve this at their respective facility.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted, with clubs encouraged to directly contact the Shire with their requests.

Decision 8: Investigate putting public WIFI access in all shire halls and pavilions.

AEM 2023.03.10

That the Shire of Mundaring investigates putting in free public WIFI access in all Shire Halls and Pavilions in line with the free WIFI access at the Libraries, Arena and the Hub. A password would be given to each group or individual booking a Shire facility to access the free public WIFI.

Advice Director Corporate Services

The location of many of the Shire halls and pavilions presents challenges in being able to offer a usable, reliable and cost-effective service. Many of the locations are not served by mainstream internet infrastructure and, though there are options such as 4G services and satellite, these come with compromises around capability and cost. A formal survey of the proposed sites could be conducted to see what the current effective options are at the moment, which would then inform any potential WIFI access taking into consideration cost, demand, feasibility.

It is noted that a number of these facilities are leased to community organisations who would be considered responsible for the cost of installing these services under the lease arrangement. The installation may possibly meet community grant funding criteria.

Ongoing connection costs would be the lessee's responsibility under the lease agreement.

If Council was to consider the proposal it could list it alongside other requests in a future IPRF process, and if prioritised by Council for further consideration, then a business case would need be developed

Recommendation

That Council requests the CEO arrange an audit of existing facilities and their communications, and list this request alongside other community requests in the 2024/25 Integrated Planning and Reporting process; and, if prioritised by Council at that point, prepare a business case for further consideration.

Decision 9: Improve resident's lifestyle by reducing man-made noise, in particular, machinery audible alarms.

AEM 2023.03.11

MRRPA asks that the Shire create an 'instrument' (policy/plan/regulation/law) to arrange that all reversing alarms fitted to vehicles and machinery operating on Shire business and shire approved operations (i.e. building, construction, earthworks, roadworks, businesses in the Mundaring Industrial Precinct for example, and so on) whether by Shire owned

vehicles, or privately owned, and whether operating on public or private land, be of the "broadband reversing alarm" type, with a period of three years from the 'start date' of the 'instrument'.

All contracts, activities, tenders, etc. not yet entered into, must have this 'broadband' alarm requirement specified as a necessary condition of acceptance and engagement to do work in the Shire as of immediately or at the next work opportunity.

Advice Director Infrastructure Services

Reversing alarms are commonly fitted to plant and heavy vehicles across a wide range of industries. The noise made by these alarms falls into one of two categories: tonal and broadband.

Tonal reversing alarms or beepers ('beep-beep-beep') produce a noise consisting of a single frequency or note. Broadband reversing alarms, sometimes called 'quackers' or 'croakers', produce a noise over a wide range of frequencies and make a 'pshh-pshh-pshh' sound.

The large majority of reversing alarms are tonal and are standard on most plant equipment. While it is suggested that broad band reversing alarms may produce less noise complaints, one was trialled by the Shire on a yard loader which resulted in a complaint from a neighbour.

As reversing alarms are necessary for safety of persons noise will be generated regardless of which type is installed.

To place such a requirement on contractors may eliminate many potential contractors and in the worst case may result in no contractors for certain works, some of which may be critical or financially significant e.g. rubbish collection trucks, asphalt machines.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as the Shire has previously trialled the broadband reversing alarm.

Decision 10: Community and Wellbeing Informing Strategy

AEM 2023.03.12

To request that the Community and Wellbeing Informing Strategy be revisited and adjusted.

Advice Director Statutory Services

The Community Health and Wellbeing Informing Strategy 2020 – 2025 (CHWIS) was adopted by Council in March 2020 (C24.03.20).

The Community Health and Wellbeing Informing Strategy (CHWIS) is a five-year plan that links to the Shire's strategic objectives as outlined in the Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 and Corporate Business Plan. This ensures commitments within the strategy are achieved within the Shire's current service levels and resourcing capability and are aligned to community's vision for the future, including aspirations and service expectations.

The *Public Health Act 2016* is being introduced progressively and is currently at phase 4. Two years after the passing of phase 5, all local governments will be required to prepare a local Public Health Plan (CHWIS) that integrates with the state Public Health Plan.

Council elected to initiate the development of a local public health plan prior to being legally mandated, the result being the adoption of the CHWIS.

The Shire is committed to reviewing the CHWIS annually with an internal working group, with amendments to be made in response to changes in State government policy and/or in consideration of statistical updates, new trends and/or evidence. The Shire is taking this proactive approach in preparation of future reporting requirements of the *Public Health Act 2016* once phase 5 is enacted, which is likely to occur around July 2024. CHWIS is scheduled for a formal review in financial year 2024 – 2025, which aligns with this timeframe.

To bring forward the formal review, which would include community consultation, is estimated to cost \$30,000.

As the legislation for mandatory public health plans (CHWIS) has not been enacted yet, there is no framework or template to report on the activities in the Shire's CHWIS.

As such Council may form the view that the current schedule for the formal review of the CHWIS, which is aligned with the State Government's phase 5 of the Public Health Plan process, is appropriate.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted, acknowledging that the formal review of the Community Health and Wellbeing Informing Strategy is already scheduled to occur in 2024/25, which is aligned with the State Government's phase 5 of the Public Health Plan process.

Decision 11: Digitisation in the Shire of Mundaring

AEM 2023.03.13

If the Shire could make a commitment to of course continue working on digital improvements but also keep the option for people to continue to receive letters in the mail, notifications in the mail so that everybody can have equal access to the things that are going on within the shire.

Advice Director Corporate Services

The Shire has progressively been providing online systems for electors' use in recent years. For all of these customer service improvements, a paper based option or similar has continued to be made available. Whilst this has the effect of negating any efficiency improvements or potential cost savings by effectively operating two systems for the same purpose, it is recognised that there are members of the community who would have issues if all Shire business was to be conducted via electronic means.

It is likely that paper based transactions etc. will decrease over time and at some point, a decision may be made to only provide the electronic option. Such a move is not currently planned for any of the Shire's existing business systems.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as the Shire is already offering alternative methods of communications in addition to digital or online options.

Decision 12: Digital Signage in our Community Parks

AEM 2023.03.14

That the Shire respectfully consider moving the LED sign currently in place in Sculpture Park to a more appropriate and less disruptive location within the shire.

Advice Director Infrastructure Services

At the 14 February 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved (C18.02.23) "That Council requests community feedback regarding the three installed LED Event Signage locations be included within the scope of the Signage Strategy development." The development of the Signage Strategy had commenced and is due for completion in July 2023. Any changes to the LED signs, including potential removal and/or relocation would therefore be informed by the outcomes of the Signage Strategy.

The installation of community messaging boards was a capital project to address requests from the community and council members to improve promotion of community events and communications to the community. In December 2022, three LED notice boards were installed at Sculpture Park, Mundaring; Morgan John Morgan Reserve, Glen Forrest; and Pioneer Park, Mt Helena.

These boards supplement and complement existing communication platforms sharing information relevant to their location and topics of broader community interest. Examples include, but are not limited to, display of emergency warnings, promotion of Shire events, sharing community events supported by the Shire, highlighting National days of significance, raising awareness of burning periods and community engagement opportunities.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted, acknowledging any changes to the LED signs, including potential removal and/or relocation, will be informed by the outcomes of the Signage Strategy (currently in development).

Decision 13: Access and Inclusion Strategy potential

AEM 2023.03.15

That the Council respectfully consider adding a statement within the current access and inclusion strategy that is a vaccination inclusion policy, whereby regardless of someone's vaccination status they will still be welcomed and included in all Shire activities and premises.

Advice Director Strategic and Community Services

The Access and Inclusion Informing Strategy 2022/2026 (the Strategy) was adopted by Council in December 2022 (C11.12.22). The Strategy was developed after extensive consultation and enables the Shire to meet its legislative requirements under the *Disability Services Act 1993*. The overall purpose of the Strategy is to ensure that all people, regardless of their age, gender, culture or ability, can access information, services and facilities provided by Shire of Mundaring, enabling an ability to be active participants within their community.

Whilst the Strategy does not explicitly refer to vaccination status, the Shire does not require information relating to any person's vaccination status when accessing Shire

services or facilities, unless required by law to do so. As an example, this occurred during the height of the global COVID 19 pandemic, when the Shire was required to comply with the State Government's Public Health Directions in a range of matters, and at certain times, such as access to certain types of facilities, where proof of vaccination status was required. These legal requirements are no longer in place.

The Strategy is due for review in 5 years. Any changes to the Strategy prior to that would require the community consultation to be undertaken again, and the updated Strategy re-logged with the Disability Services Commission. This would be estimated to cost \$30,000 and due to current service level requirements, would impact on the delivery of other scheduled strategy reviews, such as the Youth Informing Strategy which is due for review in 2023/24. The community and key stakeholders and service providers may also experience consultation fatigue having only recently been consulted for the development of this Strategy.

In addition, at the 9 March 2022 AEM, the electors present adopted a motion: *The SOM adopts a policy to actively promote an inclusive community and wherever possible, events and activities are designed and planned to include all members of the community regardless of vaccination status.*

Council formally considered this motion at the 12 April 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting and resolved as follows: *That Council supports a position to actively promote an inclusive community and wherever possible, events and activities are designed and planned to include all members of the community regardless of vaccination status, and that Council requests a draft policy be directed to the Audit and Risk Committee for further consideration.*

Council subsequently resolved (C5.07.22): *That in regards to the request to consider a draft policy for Vaccination Inclusion, the Audit and Risk Committee recommends that Council take no further action, noting Council already promotes an inclusive community with regards to events and activities within the Shire.*

Council may therefore form the view that as the Shire does not restrict access to Shire activities and premises based on vaccination status, unless required by law to do so, and as it has recently adopted the Access and Inclusion Informing Strategy 2022/2026 which aims to ensure that all people, regardless of their age, gender, culture or ability, can access information, services and facilities provided by Shire of Mundaring, that the motion be noted but no further action undertaken.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted and no further action be undertaken, because the Shire does not restrict access to Shire activities and premises based on vaccination status, unless required by law to do so, and as Council has recently adopted the *Access and Inclusion Informing Strategy 2022/2026* which aims to ensure that all people, regardless of their age, gender, culture or ability, can access information, services and facilities provided by Shire of Mundaring.

Decision 14: LED Signage

AEM 2023.03.16

That Council commissions an independent, arms length review of the process that resulted in LED signs being installed in Pioneer Park, Sculpture Park and Morgan John Morgan reserve.

That such a forensic review does not involve any member of Administration so as to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest.

That the review will be carried out by a reputable independent consultant qualified in Governance matters.

Advice Director Strategic and Community Services and Director Infrastructure Services

In terms of how these final locations for the LED signs were selected, this process has taken place over a number of years, with the origin of this project originating from a Notice of Motion at the December AEM 2018, being;

That the Shire of Mundaring update its signage policy by end of July 2019 to include the following in any new policy:-

- 1. Support for local towns with their community events promotion.*
- 2. Provision of sign structures at all local key intersections as per the locations of the recent and highly successful Act Belong Commit Hills – Billy Cart Festival.*
- 3. Free access for community residents and ratepayers associations seeking to utilise sign structures; and*
- 4. Funding support to continue signage advertising of local events*

At the 12 February 2019 ordinary Council meeting, Council considered its response to this motion and resolved to defer the consideration of a review of the Shire's Signs Local Law until a Signage Strategy has been prepared and to continue the current practice of supporting the promotion of community events. In the accompanying report to Council it was noted that:

1. While Council did not have a Signage Policy, a need for a comprehensive Signage Strategy was understood (but at that time had not been funded), noting the Cultural Advisory Group was in favour of such a strategy.
2. Further consideration should be given to the potential for digital signs at key intersections, to also be used to promote community events.

Subsequent to this decision, discussions were held with Councillors during the annual deliberations for the Corporate Business Planning cycle in 2019. As part of these discussions various capital works requests were tabled. Event signage was one such item listed for consideration (as it had arisen from the AEM motion). Subsequently Council agreed to include provision for funding for event signage within the first four years of the Long Term Financial Plan 2019/20 – 2028/29 (and in subsequent annual revisions of this plan). In terms of selecting locations for these signs, these discussions noted that event signage would be placed at various key locations where people congregate having the time to read all messages in a same manner– with a list of prominent parks within the Shire being noted as potential locations.

In August 2019 the Cultural Advisory Group considered advice about the proposed event signage in key locations (ie Sculpture Park, Morgan John Morgan Reserve and Pioneer Park) and provided feedback about the proposed sign design.

Noting a period of time then elapsed due to the impact of COVID19 and Council's decision to amend its planned budget works in response to the impact of the pandemic, in 2022, once the project was able to be progressed again, the respective Resident and Ratepayer Groups were informed of the plans for event signage.

In the early stages of this project developing, Great Eastern Highway was proposed to be a possible location for an LED sign to be installed. This request was again raised at the AEM held in March 2021. In considering this 2021 motion a report was prepared for Council, which was considered at the May 2021 ordinary council meeting. In this Council report it was noted that investigation of the location on Great Eastern Highway near the Shire Administration Building had revealed that the location presented potential hazards, given the proximity to a four way intersection. In addition, Main Roads WA requirements meant a LED sign could not pulse, flash or chase and was restricted as to illumination levels. For these reasons the Great Eastern Highway location was not supported.

The Council report included information about the event signage (at Sculpture Park, Pioneer Park and Morgan John Morgan Reserve) already being progressed as a result of the 2019 deliberations of Council, as it was deemed pertinent to the AEM motion requesting consideration of signage on Great Eastern Highway to inform the community of events.

In its response to the motion from the AEM, Council subsequently resolved to 'note' the plans to install LED event signage and to 'inform' the relevant Resident and Ratepayer Associations of these plans.

As detailed above, the minutes of the Annual Electors' Meeting held in December 2018 and March 2021 plus the Council Meeting Minutes of February 2019 and May 2021 are available on the Shire's website, as are the Long Term Financial Plans from 2019/20 – 2028/29.

Accordingly Council can be confident that the process to determine how locations were selected for the LED signs was appropriate.

Recommendation

That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as the process to determine how locations were selected for the LED signs was appropriate.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in considering the decisions made at the Annual Meeting of Electors held on 8 March 2023, endorses the following recommended actions in relation to the motions adopted at the meeting:

Decision	Motion	Recommendation
Decision 1: Creating a community focussed placemaking	The Darlington Residents and Ratepayers Association RRA propose that the Shire of Mundaring:	That the motion be noted, acknowledging the Shire will continue to draw upon place making principles in the delivery of the Mundaring Town Centre

<p>strategy for the SoM AEM 2022.03.03</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allocate funds for the development of a comprehensive placemaking strategy for the Shire. 2. Adopt a community-focused approach to the design of public spaces, taking into account the unique cultural, historical, and social characteristics of the Perth hills and its residents. 3. For public places, follow a design process that prioritises aesthetic beauty as a goal and, where possible, uses locally sourced materials, labour, craftspeople, and construction techniques. 	<p>Initiative and the Mundaring Multipurpose Community Facility project and will contemplate a discrete place-making strategy as part of the review of LPS4 scheduled for 2025/26.</p>
<p>Decision 2: Architecture and Urban Design Competition for the proposed Mundaring Cultural Precinct AEM 2023.03.04</p>	<p>The Darlington Residents and Ratepayers Association RRA propose that the Shire of Mundaring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allocate funds for the organisation of an Architecture and Urban Design Competition for the proposed Mundaring Cultural Precinct 2. Prioritise the celebration and preservation of the rich history, cultural heritage, & character of the Perth Hills. 3. Prioritise a holistic design solution for the Mundaring Cultural Precinct which will enhance and build upon the heritage of the Hills and generate significant community engagement. 	<p>That the motion be noted, acknowledging that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it would be open to Council to consider an Architecture and Urban Design Competition for the proposed Mundaring Cultural Precinct during future stages of the project; • celebrating the character, history and heritage values have been and will continue to be an important consideration for this project; and • Council has recently endorsed an Engagement Plan for Stage 2 of the Mundaring Town Centre Revitalisation Project, which ensures significant community engagement will inform development of a masterplan for the cultural precinct, as well as the proposed multipurpose community

		facility.
<p>Decision 3: Council consider adopting an Access to Records and Information Policy. AEM 2023.03.05</p>	<p>That Council considers adopting an Access to Records and Information Policy.</p> <p>That the Policy Developed will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members Statutory access to records is quite clear and it will implement the objectives of the Local Government Act to have greater community participation in the decisions and affairs of Local Governments. • greater accountability for Local Government to Elected Members and their communities • that no contracts will be entered into where the supplier attempts to impose Commercial in Confidence clauses that would hinder community access to the terms and conditions of any awarded contract (This may be included in the Procurement Policy) • that all records held by the Council are public records, unless decided otherwise by Council, noting that the CEO can mark a document confidential but that decision must be sent to Council for review. • all the Local Government records and information are accessible by Elected Members unless access is restricted by a Court, Tribunal or Council absolute majority or express written law. • all Local Government Contracts are accessible by Elected Members without fetter as prescribed by the Local Government Act. 	<p>That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as the proposed policy would duplicate existing legislative requirements for council members and members of the public accessing local government information and, in some cases, would conflict with existing and proposed legislation.</p>

	<p>S5.92(2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requests for access to records by the Community will only be refused by the CEO if the information requested is not a Public Record by written law or Court or Tribunal order or Council resolution. • that Council requires a monthly summary of requests received and the decision made by the CEO and the reasons for any refusal. • that where the CEO requires an application for a record to make a FOI request then the CEO must first comply with this Policy as to the public release of a record. • refunded any fees charged where Council or other decision maker decides the record or information is a public record. 	
<p>Decision 4: Advocate for an Audit or WALGA by the Office of the Auditor General AEM 2023.03.06</p>	<p>That the Shire of Mundaring Council supports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial and performance audits being carried out annually on WALGA 2. And advocates for WALGA to request the Office of the Auditor General to undertake financial audits of WALGA and any related activities. <p>AND THAT the Shire of Mundaring WALGA zone representatives represent and support the Council position in these matters at any WALGA zone meeting. That the delegates reports back to Council any outcomes or discussion about these matters to the following Council meeting. That, if the Electors Motion is supported by Council,</p>	<p>That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as Council has previously considered this matter and because WALGA's audited financial statements are already provided and publically available.</p>

	that the Shire of Mundaring CEO conveys in writing the specific contents of the Council resolution to the WALGA State Council and the WALGA CEO as a matter of urgency.	
Decision 5: Shire of Mundaring remove the LED Sign recently installed at Morgan John Morgan Reserve AEM 2023.03.07	That the Shire of Mundaring remove the LED sign recently installed at Morgan John Morgan Reserve.	That the motion be noted, acknowledging any changes to the LED signs, including potential removal and/or relocation, will be informed by the outcomes of the Signage Strategy (currently in development).
Decision 6: Material and Administrative changes to the Hills Community Nursing Home at 90 Mucciarone Lane, Parkerville AEM 2023.03.08	That the proposed change of use at the property at 90 Mucciarone Lane, Parkerville is referred back to the shire's planning process.	That the motion be noted, as the Shire has approved the operation of Residential Building on the site. Where residents allege anti-social behaviour is occurring these events should be referred to WA Police for investigation.
Decision 7: Develop directions on policy regarding display cabinets for sporting clubs. AEM 2023.03.09	To develop directions on policy regarding display cabinets for the sporting club trophies or for memorabilia. Eg. Elsie Austin where two walls are all windows, the closets take up the third wall and the kitchen window takes up a good portion of the other wall	That the motion be noted, with clubs encouraged to directly contact the Shire with their requests.
Decision 8: Investigate putting public WIFI access in all shire halls and pavilions. AEM 2023.03.10	That the Shire of Mundaring investigates in putting free public WIFI access in all Shire Halls and Pavilions in line with the free WIFI access at the Libraries, Arena and the Hub. A password would be given to each group or individual booking a Shire facility to access the free public WIFI.	That Council requests the CEO arrange an audit of existing facilities and their communications, and list this request alongside other community requests in the 2024/25 Integrated Planning and Reporting process; and, if prioritised by Council at that point, prepare a business case for further consideration.
Decision 9: Improve resident's lifestyle by reducing man-	MRRPA asks that the Shire create an 'instrument' (policy/plan/regulation/law) to arrange that all reversing alarms	That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as the Shire has previously trialled the

<p>made noise, in particular, machinery audible alarms.</p> <p>AEM 2023.03.11</p>	<p>fitted to vehicles and machinery operating on Shire business and shire approved operations (i.e. building, construction, earthworks, roadworks, businesses in the Mundaring Industrial Precinct for example, and so on) whether by Shire owned vehicles, or privately owned, and whether operating on public or private land, be of the "broadband reversing alarm" type, with a period of three years from the 'start date' of the 'instrument'.</p> <p>All contracts, activities, tenders, etc, not yet entered into, must have this 'broadband' alarm requirement specified as a necessary condition of acceptance and engagement to do work in the Shire as of immediately or at the next work opportunity.</p>	<p>broadband reversing alarm.</p>
<p>Decision 10: Community and Wellbeing Informing Strategy</p> <p>AEM 2023.03.12</p>	<p>To request that the Community and Wellbeing Informing Strategy be revisited and adjusted.</p>	<p>That the motion be noted, acknowledging that the formal review of the Community Health and Wellbeing Informing Strategy is already scheduled to occur in 2024/25, which is aligned with the State Government's phase 5 of the Public Health Plan process.</p>
<p>Decision 11: Digitisation in the Shire of Mundaring</p> <p>AEM 2023.03.13</p>	<p>If the shire could make a commitment to of course continue working on digital improvements but also keep the option for people to continue to receive letters in the mail, notifications in the mail so that everybody can have equal access to the things that are going on within the shire.</p>	<p>That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as the Shire is already offering alternative methods of communications in addition to digital or online options.</p>
<p>Decision 12: Digital Signage in our Community Parks</p> <p>AEM 2023.03.14</p>	<p>That the shire respectfully consider moving the LED sign currently in place in Sculpture Park to a more appropriate and less disruptive location within the shire.</p>	<p>That the motion be noted, acknowledging any changes to the LED signs, including potential removal and/or relocation, will be informed by the outcomes of the Signage</p>

		Strategy (currently in development).
<p>Decision 13: Access and Inclusion Strategy potential AEM 2023.03.15</p>	<p>That the council respectfully consider adding a statement within the current access and inclusion strategy that is a vaccination inclusion policy, whereby regardless of someone's vaccination status they will still be welcomed and included in all shire activities and premises.</p>	<p>That the motion be noted and no further action be undertaken, because the Shire does not restrict access to Shire activities and premises based on vaccination status, unless required by law to do so, and as Council has recently adopted the <i>Access and Inclusion Informing Strategy 2022/2026</i> which aims to ensure that all people, regardless of their age, gender, culture or ability, can access information, services and facilities provided by Shire of Mundaring.</p>
<p>Decision 14: LED Signage AEM 2023.03.16</p>	<p>That council commissions an independent, arms length review of the process that resulted in LED signs being installed in Pioneer Park, Sculpture Park and Morgan John Morgan reserve.</p> <p>That such a forensic review does not involve any member of Administration so as to avoid any perceived conflicts of interest.</p> <p>That the review will be carried out by a reputable independent consultant qualified in Governance matters.</p>	<p>That the motion be noted and no further action taken, as the process to determine how locations were selected for the LED signs was appropriate.</p>

COUNCIL DECISION MOTION		C7.04.23	
Moved by	Cr Zlatnik	Seconded by	Cr Jeans

That Council:

1. In considering the following decisions made at the Annual Meeting of Electors held on 8 March 2023, endorses the recommended actions in relation to the motions adopted at the meeting:
 - a. Decisions 2, 4, 8, and 11; and
2. Receives a report from the CEO at the May 2023 Ordinary meeting of Council advising when further advice in regards to AEM Decisions 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14 can be provided.

Reason for Change

To allow for the independent consideration and potential for an alternate motion of selected AEM decisions while resolving to adopt the remainder of the recommendations as listed in the report.

This will ensure that electors' decisions are considered appropriately by Council, allowing for councillors to ask questions and clarify information with regards to the AEM Decisions and officer reports relating to these decisions, present potential alternates with time for consideration by all councillors prior to a decision being made.

CARRIED 7/2

For: Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Cr Cook and Cr Ellery

10.3 Adoption of Local Biodiversity Strategy Following Public Consultation

File Code	EV PRG 1
Author	Briony Moran, Coordinator Environment and Sustainability
Senior Employee	Mark Luzi, Director Statutory Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Local Biodiversity Strategy - Revised Draft ↓2. Local Biodiversity Strategy - Revised Draft - Changes in Red ↓3. Schedule of Submissions on draft Local Biodiversity Strategy ↓

SUMMARY

The draft Local Biodiversity Strategy (LBS) has been advertised for public comment and revised following the consultation period. Council is invited to endorse the revised draft LBS (refer to **Attachment 1**). The draft LBS showing changes and additions is provided at **Attachment 2**.

The revised draft LBS represents a consolidation of a number of previous plans and strategies relating to the natural environment. It also represents a pivot towards actions that facilitate a culture of conservation, better sharing of knowledge and connections, and balancing of bushfire and biodiversity considerations.

It is recommended that Council adopts the Local Biodiversity Strategy.

BACKGROUND

Community surveys repeatedly raise environment as a key priority and this is reflected in the Shire's Strategic Community Plan. Council adopted as a 10 year priority, '*Shire-led conservation, protection and retention of natural areas*' and the overall vision for the area as "*A Place for Sustainable Living*".

Over the past 25 years, the Shire had developed a number of separate plans and strategies focussed on particular elements of the natural environment. These included a *Wildlife Corridor Strategy (2000)*, *Community Education Strategy (2002)*, *Local Biodiversity Strategy (2009)*, *Environmental Management Plan (2012)* and *Roadside Conservation Strategy (2016)*. Each of these plans or strategies served a purpose at the time, and supported many Shire projects, successful grant applications, and collaboration with environmental volunteers and other organisations.

The Shire's previous *Local Biodiversity Strategy* (endorsed in 2009) focussed heavily on clearing for development as a primary threat, and therefore prioritised identifying local natural areas on private land and protecting these from clearing through the local planning framework. The aims of the previous *Local Biodiversity Strategy* have largely been achieved.

Biodiversity provisions in the local planning framework were strengthened with the introduction of the Local Planning Scheme No. 4. The Shire's approach and complementary Environmental Asset Inspection (EAI) service has been recognised at the state and national level by the Planning Institute of Australia. Given the extent of natural

areas on private land, maintaining the Shire's environmental protections within its planning framework and the EAI service will be a priority.

The Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee and Council agreed that it was advantageous for the Shire move to away from overlapping single issue strategies, and consolidate these into a single higher-level document with a clear line of sight to the Shire's Strategic Community Plan and Local Planning Strategy.

The draft Strategy was advertised for public comment in accordance with the Council decision of 8 November 2022 (C4.11.22):

That Council

1. *Endorses for the purpose of advertising, the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy, as shown in Attachment 1; and*
2. *Advertises the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy, as shown in Attachment 1, for 60 days.*

Issues raised in submissions are discussed in the Comment section below.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The effective implementation of a *Local Biodiversity Strategy* is consistent with section 1.3(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, which states:

In carrying out its functions a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.

Broadly, the LBS is a strategic document and does not impose direct statutory or legal implications on the Shire. The LBS does contain recommendations that seek to influence legislation, such as a recommendation to advocate for amendments to the *Cat Act 2011*.

Once adopted, the LBS may also influence future revisions of Shire Local Laws and the local planning scheme.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The draft LBS is intended to be consistent with all of the principles of the Environmental Sustainability Policy (OR-23).

The draft LBS also recommends:

Consider amendment to Art Collection Policy (OR-09) to include works that celebrate the natural landscape and native species found within the Shire.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Most actions reflect a recalibration of existing staff effort and resources; however, potential new business cases and indicative costs are noted where relevant within the draft LBS.

Staff and Council will have an opportunity to revisit suggested initiatives/actions at that stage. Ultimately, these would inform preparation of future business cases for budget consideration.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 2 - Natural Environment

Objective 2.1 – Protecting natural areas and biodiversity

Strategy 2.1.1 – Pursue revegetation and address weeds and other threats to native flora

and fauna in partnership with Friends Groups, the wider community, government and non-government organisations

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Conservation of biodiversity has social and economic benefits in addition to protecting the natural environment.

The LBS seeks to protect, enhance and celebrate local biodiversity, to the extent possible given the Shire's role and available resources. Once adopted, it is expected to guide future actions until 2030. The Strategy and the manner in which it is implemented will have significant long term implications across a range of sustainability outcomes in the shire.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: There is a Reputational risk if the revised draft LBS is not adopted, as it is a commitment in the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan, or if due consideration is not given to public submissions.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Unlikely	Minor	Low
Action / Strategy		
The revised draft LBS is endorsed by Council.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

During the preparation of the draft LBS, a working group of the Environmental Advisory Committee was formed to provide input into the vision, structure and direction of the new, consolidated strategy. The working group also provided helpful input to the development of the wildlife corridor network, complemented by review of draft local wildlife corridors by staff of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

The Covid-19 pandemic significantly disrupted the planned community consultation approach, however a degree of consultation has occurred in various forms already, including a Nature and Biodiversity Survey. A number of actions have also been derived from previously adopted strategies that were subject to their own consultation exercises.

Environmental volunteers in Friends Groups and Catchment Groups are important stakeholders in managing the Shire's natural heritage. Their feedback from local workshops regarding watercourse health and catchment management (February 2022), and bushfire and biodiversity (September 2022) helped shape the approaches and actions within the draft Strategy. Some recommendations have also built upon the consultation with Friends Group and Catchment Group members regarding the future of the Eastern Region Landcare (catchment management) program, prior to the shift from the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) to Perth NRM.

Following Council's November 2022 decision to endorse the draft LBS for the purpose of advertising, the draft LBS was advertised concurrently with the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy from 25 November 2022 up to and including 6 February 2023. Advertising included:

- A notice in the local newspaper;
- A notice and a copy of the LBS on the Shire's website and at Shire libraries;
- Correspondence inviting comment on the LBS being sent to Friends Groups and Catchment Groups within the Shire; Perth NRM; the Department of Water and

Environmental Regulation; the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage; the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation and Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation; the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; City of Kalamunda; City of Swan; Shire of York; Shire of Northam; Shire of Toodyay; and the Mundaring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.

- Correspondence inviting comment on the LBS being sent to all landowners with a mapped wildlife corridor on their property.

During this period 43 submissions were received which provided comments on the draft LBS. In general, submissions were in support of the draft LBS and some submitters provided suggestions for improvement. Several submitters objected to an action relating to future assessment of small parcels of reserved land that may be recommended for alternative uses if they have low ecological or recreational values. One submission was received objecting to future consideration of potential expansion of the Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary to include a portion of Quail Street Reserve.

During the advertising period for the draft LBS, residents were asked to note what they thought were the highest priorities. High priority issues/actions that were raised in multiple submissions were:

- Need for additional staff and resources to look after the natural environment;
- Need for research and better monitoring / reporting on the natural environment, particularly for fauna;
- Need for animal control (fox and feral animal control program; changes to laws to require containment of pet cats; keeping dogs on leashes; enforcement by rangers);
- Importance of support, communication and coordination with Friends Group and Catchment Group volunteers;
- Need for more weed management across all land tenures;
- Complexity of bushfire mitigation and interaction with weeds; noting opportunities to learn from traditional owners and need to better inform residents about fire safety / arson / carelessness;
- Need for more landowner engagement; assistance to manage threats and environmental education opportunities;
- Note impacts of climate change make watercourses even more important as refuges and wildlife corridors;
- Need for stronger clearing rules and more funding for environmental restoration from State and Commonwealth Government; and
- Need for regional approaches including partnerships with regional organisations and neighbouring local governments.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) did not provide a formal submission, but provided the comments below:

Overall DBCA (P&WS) has no comments to make regarding the content of the draft LBS however recognises the importance of the document in identifying and outlining strategic environmental objectives and actions to be implemented within the Shire. Elements of the local planning framework and policy, administered by the Shire of Mundaring, greatly assist in the ability to retain and protect remnant vegetation on private land holdings, through the planning process.

In acknowledging the large areas of DBCA managed lands within the Shire of Mundaring, DBCA welcomes a continued collaborative working arrangement to assist in the coordinated management of conservation lands and biodiversity values. This includes initiatives to prevent illegal clearing on private land; reducing bushfire risks; and reducing the threats to the DBCA managed State forest, national parks and nature reserves caused by illegal off-road vehicles, feral animals, firewood collection and rubbish dumping.

DBCA hopes to continue to work with the Shire of Mundaring in the implementation of relevant LBS actions.

The issues raised and responses made within the LBS are noted in the Comment section below. The full submissions are detailed in **Attachment 3**.

COMMENT

Below is a list of issues raised by submitters during the public consultation period and the adjustments that have been made to the final draft strategy in response. In addition, some submissions identified areas requiring clearer formatting or correction of typographical errors, which have been addressed in the revised draft LBS but not listed as issues raised.

	Issue	Response
1.	Importance of biodiversity and support for the strategy generally; require better definition of biodiversity and explanation of its importance and use of the word biodiversity within the vision statement.	There was support for the strategy overall but some submitters noted that the definition of biodiversity was limited, and statements about reasons and opportunities for protecting it were also limited. Additional information was included in the draft strategy to address this (addition of specific Opportunities section). The phrase 'biodiversity and natural areas' replaced 'local natural areas' within the vision statement.
2.	Include more information about strengths and opportunities for biodiversity conservation including potential collaborations with the Noongar Boodja Trust following Native Title Settlement.	Additional information was included in the draft strategy to address this (Opportunities section) and text relating to the Native Title Settlement was moved from a section dealing with fragmented land management to the Opportunities section.
3.	Importance of biodiversity for human health and well-being and support recognition of local flora and fauna through art.	The dependence on biodiversity for health and wellbeing is recognised within the Shire's Environmental Sustainability Policy, which is quoted within the LBS. Some additional text was included in the draft strategy to address this (Opportunities section).
4.	Importance of nature and biodiversity to the character and identity of the Shire, including supporting tourism and economic opportunities.	This was noted in additions in the Opportunities section. Continued protection of natural values would support aspirations of the Shire's Tourism and Economic Development Strategy (in draft form at present).
5.	Need for research and better monitoring,	Criticism of the lack of data on environmental conditions and fauna in particular is valid.

	<p>particularly to address the lack of data on fauna.</p>	<p>Biodiversity planning in southwest Western Australia is based on vegetation complexes as a proxy for ecosystem diversity, but ideally would be based on a much deeper understanding of the ecology and species present.</p> <p>There are a number of actions that relate to improved mapping and monitoring in reserves, and development of management plans for high priority conservation reserves, which could include condition mapping and fauna surveys.</p> <p>The Shire can support research efforts but will rarely be the appropriate lead on a collaborative research project. Participation in citizen science and other research initiatives would help address the lack of fauna data and monitoring for shire reserves, which are very limited.</p> <p>The measures listed for annual reporting are activity or effort based rather than condition based in most cases since there is no baseline for many environmental values, or capacity to measure condition. Additional measures could be included if they become available through State or Commonwealth initiatives or cost-effective monitoring systems are identified. However, intensive monitoring for annual reporting would be at the expense of management effort to maintain the health of natural areas and address threats.</p>
6.	<p>Need for additional Shire staff to deliver the LBS, work with landowners and improve reserve management, even if volunteer numbers can be increased.</p>	<p>Actions 1.20 (Employ additional staff for reserve management and coordinate conservation activities with bushfire mitigation) and 1.21 (Review efforts to increase volunteering and consider whether additional staff or contractors required) in the advertised draft LBS both require business cases to be presented to Council.</p> <p>Action 1.21 was listed as a Medium Term action (2025-2027) in the advertised draft LBS. This has been changed to a Short Term action (2023-2025) in response to submissions, and the reference to review after efforts to increase volunteering removed. The updated action is 'Increase on-ground resources for Shire management of natural areas and support for environmental volunteers.'</p>
7.	<p>Need for support for Friends Groups and Catchment Groups, with improved communication and coordination with Shire activities.</p>	<p>This is recognised within the LBS. The only change that is proposed is to bring forward an action relating to additional resources for looking after Shire reserves from 'Medium' term to 'Short' term as noted above.</p>

8.	Need for regional strategies, partnerships, and connections of wildlife corridors across local government boundaries.	Regional Ecological Linkages for the Perth Metropolitan Region provide for wildlife corridor connections that cross local government boundaries. However, there are many environmental issues that would potentially benefit from more regional approaches, particularly where this could attract funding from the State or Commonwealth Governments. Action 1.11 in the advertised draft LBS only referred to regional projects in partnership with Perth NRM. This action was adjusted to also include neighbouring local governments.
9.	Support establishment of a Landcare Centre but suggest it be pursued sooner, or included in the planned Mundaring multi purpose community facility	Consultation for the Mundaring multi purpose community facility may consider various potential uses for the site, including Landcare, but will not necessarily include this use. If this was to be included the timing may coincide with the 2027-2030 'Long Timeframe' listed currently.
10.	Support re-establishment of paid Eastern Region Landcare Program rather than Landcare Centre.	Pursuit of a physical Landcare Centre within the Shire need not be at the expense of participation in regional initiatives. A business case would be required for Council to consider allocating funding towards the Eastern Region Landcare Program, now hosted by Perth NRM. Action 1.11 was updated to include reference to a business case being required (noting that more detail would be required on the costs and services proposed by Perth NRM to enable that to be developed).
11.	Need to list or better explain other relevant legislation, such as requirements for clearing permits, and the roles of State Government agencies.	This was addressed through minor edits to some sections of the draft (such as noting requirements for clearing permits), and additions within the Opportunities section including relevant legislation. A list of threatened fauna as identified under State and Commonwealth legislation was included as Appendix 4.
12.	Need for more landowner engagement and education on caring for the natural environment.	This is recognised within the LBS as an important issue.
13.	Complexity of balancing bushfire mitigation with biodiversity conservation; fire interaction with weeds; and the need for nuanced approaches, learning from traditional owners, perhaps leaving some areas unburnt.	This is recognised within the LBS and will require an adaptive management approach. Shire staff will continue to monitor research in this area and keep refining natural area and fuel load management.
14.	Leave bushfire risk and mitigation out of this	Biodiversity and bushfire risk management are intrinsically linked within our landscape and bushfire mitigation cannot be excluded from this Strategy

	strategy.	without ignoring a key opportunity for improving environmental outcomes.
15.	Question validity of Appendix 5 and its impact on State approaches to bushfire mitigation.	There has been a significant volume of research published on bushfire behaviour in the last five years. One of the authors has confirmed that there are elements of the discussion paper that now require review. This paper has therefore been withdrawn from the LBS appendices (may be published separately once adequately reviewed and updated).
16.	Need for education / prevention programs against arson and carelessness causing fire.	<p>The majority of fires that occur within the Shire are caused by humans, although usually through accidents or carelessness rather than arson. Fire safety campaigns and arson prevention initiatives are undertaken by DFES, supported by WA Police.</p> <p>The Shire will continue to support delivery of these initiatives but it is not considered appropriate to develop parallel programs. The Shire will also continue to promote awareness of safe burning practices, and restrictions based on conditions including 'total fire bans'.</p>
17.	Need to address weeds as a key threat; undertake opportunistic weed control, need to update priority weeds list.	This is recognised within the LBS as it is a key challenge, requiring many different landowners and managers to undertake weed control. The review of the priority weeds list was shifted from 'Medium' to 'Short' term. Action 1.1 was modified to refer to opportunistic weed control in addition to following the Bradley method.
18.	Cease use of glyphosate / Continue use of glyphosate as weeds are more dangerous.	<p>Herbicides (including glyphosate) are used in the Shire to supplement non-herbicide methods of weed control. Mechanical and/or hand removal methods are frequently undertaken however they alone are not sufficient to achieve an appropriate level of weed control, particularly given the very large areas of land the Shire manages.</p> <p>All herbicides, tools, machinery, and manual labour include some degree of risk, mainly to the person undertaking weed control activities. The most appropriate method of weed control will depend on the weed species, location, and resources available.</p> <p>Shire staff limit the use of glyphosate through alternative herbicides and initial mechanical and manual treatments where suitable, and using more targeted application including weed wands, smaller spray nozzles and 'cut and paint' approaches. However, herbicide generally and glyphosate specifically remain important tools for limiting the growth and spread of weeds within the Shire and the consequent impacts on the natural environment, amenity and bushfire fuel loads.</p>

19.	Noting the expected impacts of climate change; some suggesting assessment of carbon sequestration through native vegetation.	Estimation or modelling of carbon sequestered within Shire reserves is possible but complex. Opportunities to participate in State or regional scale initiatives would be considered as they arise. On-ground assessment of environmental values and improved management is considered a higher priority given limited resources.
20.	Noting importance of watercourses, particularly as a refuge in a changing climate; more clearly link to Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy objectives including retention of water in the landscape and providing for protection of aquatic species.	The Local Biodiversity Strategy was developed in parallel with the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy. This was addressed through additions within the Opportunities section to more clearly link to the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy.
21.	Support for wildlife corridor concept with some suggestions for review of fences along corridors; installation of tunnels under roads; and more wildlife crossing signs.	There are mixed findings on the effectiveness of fauna underpasses and tunnels where they have been installed, where wildlife do not always use them or where introduced predators take advantage of them to hunt at the exits. Main Roads WA is the approval authority for wildlife crossing signs and is generally not supportive of new permanent signs, which is why purchase of additional temporary Green Spot signs is proposed in action 3.6. Action 3.7 outlines Infrastructure Services preferred approach which includes verge modification and temporary signage.
22.	Need for ongoing fox and feral animal control to prevent continued decline in native wildlife, and to retain digging mammals which are important to maintain forest ecosystems and natural fuel load reduction.	<p>The Shire does not have an active fox or feral animal control program. Some actions in Table 1 would relate to fox and feral animal control on reserves, but this is not explicit as they are one of many threats.</p> <p>Community Safety Rangers do not undertake fox control as it is not considered a community safety issue, or included under the local laws that they administer. Action 2.21 provides for development of a service or program that supports control of feral animals on private land.</p> <p>Foxes and feral animals would be more effectively addressed at the regional scale through collaborative projects, and may be included in future under the Eastern Region Catchment Management Program or other regional initiatives.</p>
23.	Mandatory cat containment within enclosures or on properties.	It is not currently possible to apply the same sorts of restrictions to cat as dogs, under the <i>WA Cat Act 2011</i> . Action 2.20 provides for Shire advocacy to the State Government to enable these sorts of restrictions; however, a change to the local law to give effect to such changes would require further

		<p>public consultation.</p> <p>Action 2.19 has been modified slightly to include promotion of outdoor cat runs (also called ‘catios’) by residents on a voluntary basis, in addition to responsible pet ownership generally.</p>
24.	Better enforcement of keeping dogs on leashes.	<p>Community Safety Rangers have enforcement options where dogs are found to not be effectively controlled or kept on a leash as required. However, Rangers will not always be present to see and respond to issues of dogs that are not kept on a leash.</p> <p>Community expectations for responsible pet ownership continue to change and social norms about controlling pets to protect wildlife may be as effective in changing pet owners’ behaviour as Ranger enforcement activities. Improved signage on reserves would help to clarify expectations for particular sites.</p>
25.	Need for stronger protection against clearing; address threats of urban development more comprehensively; include clearer explanations of local natural area provisions and their use within planning decisions.	<p>There are State and Commonwealth laws providing protection of native vegetation, which are administered by the State and Commonwealth Governments. It appears some of these may be intended to be strengthened and the Shire may participate in consultation processes, but not enough is known to list this as a specific action.</p> <p>Important decisions about zoning land for development and subdivision that can lead to significant clearing are made by the State Government.</p> <p>The Shire provides some additional protection of native vegetation through provisions in the Local Planning Scheme No. 4, however there are also specific exemptions in recognition of existing property rights and bushfire safety requirements. While the native vegetation protection provisions in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 do not protect all native vegetation (particularly on smaller, residential lots) they do provide more extensive environmental protection than many equivalent local planning schemes and have been regarded as best practice in WA. Some additional explanation of this was included in the Opportunities section.</p>
26.	Advocacy to the State and Commonwealth Governments for stronger environmental protection legislation and more funding for science-based environmental restoration	<p>An additional action addressing this was included in Table 2 in response to submissions.</p> <p>Action 2.9 is ‘Advocacy to the State and Commonwealth Governments for stronger environmental protection legislation and more funding for science-based environmental restoration programs.’</p>

	programs.	
27.	Do not support rationalisation of reserves; suggest re-planting them if without conservation value.	<p>Action 1.29 in the revised draft LBS provides for a future assessment of potential alternative land uses for reserves identified as having low ecological and recreational values.</p> <p>Shire of Mundaring is rarely the owner of reserved land (so would not profit from the sale of reserves if any occurred) but is often the default manager of many types of reserves. The Shire does not currently have adequate staff to address all threatening processes and maintain the environmental values of existing nature reserves, and effort to recreate natural areas on highly degraded reserves would be at the expense of managing existing natural assets.</p> <p>There have been many small reserves created for a range of reasons over time which do warrant a review of whether they have conservation values or serve any other public purpose. Consultation with nearby residents would be necessary to determine potential social and recreational values of small reserves. The State Government also requires consultation with surrounding landowners prior to changes of the status of reserves.</p> <p>To make it more clear that significant nature reserves would not be potentially included, this action was modified to specify reserves smaller than 0.5 hectares in size to be assessed.</p> <p>Modified action 1.29 is 'To better direct management effort and resources towards areas of greater conservation value, review reserves less than 0.5 hectares to identify land with low ecological and recreational values, to consider for rezoning or alternate land uses (subject to community consultation).</p>
28.	Oppose 'lease' of Quail Street Reserve to Australian Wildlife Conservancy.	<p>The loss of wildlife due to feral animals and roaming pets is well documented, as is the success of fenced conservation areas in allowing threatened fauna populations to recover. More intensive management is required for fully fenced conservation areas and this is beyond the capacity of the Shire to undertake, therefore feral predator exclusion fencing for Shire managed reserves has not been recommended.</p> <p>The Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary, managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, has a boundary in common with Quail Street Reserve. It is surrounded by feral predator exclusion 'floppy top' fencing. As the original Sanctuary established by the founders of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy it is relatively small. While no area has currently been identified for a change of management, there could be significant</p>

		<p>fauna conservation benefits to expanding the area protected by the feral predator exclusion fencing. This would not necessarily include the whole of the reserve, or exclude visitors, but it could also address the unauthorised vehicle access that has been noted in this reserve. The detail of any future proposal would include community consultation at the time.</p>
29.	<p>Establish a significant tree register; establish register of sensitive environmental areas.</p>	<p>A register of environmentally sensitive areas is maintained by the State Government. The National Trust has established a National Register of Significant Trees</p> <p>Local significant tree registers are sometimes used by local governments with much smaller geographic areas and fewer trees. The current approach to protect remnant vegetation using the Local Planning Scheme No. 4 is more appropriate for the Shire's landscape.</p>
30.	<p>Banning rodenticides and glue traps.</p>	<p>Local government does not have the power under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to ban the use of particular products within its municipal boundaries. It can participate in community awareness raising initiatives discouraging their use, including avoiding use of higher risk rodenticides on Shire facilities.</p> <p>Awareness raising is provided for in action 2.16, for discouraging the use of certain rodenticides that have a higher risk of secondary poisoning for wildlife and pets (Owl Friendly declaration).</p>
31.	<p>Banning invasive European and African plants.</p>	<p>Local government does not have the power under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to ban the sale of particular plants within its boundaries. The Shire maintains free books and other resources about weeds to discourage planting of weedy species.</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has enforcement powers for declared pest plants in WA.</p>
32.	<p>Require developers to relocate wildlife.</p>	<p>Decisions relating to clearing permits, subdivision and substantial development are made by the State Government rather than the Shire. Where given the opportunity to comment or make a recommendation on a proposal the Shire can recommend that wildlife relocation be included as a condition if the development is approved. In addition, disturbance of wildlife can require separate approvals from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.</p>
33.	<p>Better enforcement against illegal firewood collection and off-road vehicles.</p>	<p>It is difficult (and can be potentially dangerous) for staff to identify offenders and address these issues across reserves managed by the Shire, Water Corporation, Department of Biodiversity</p>

		<p>Conservation and other State Government agencies.</p> <p>The Shire's ability to undertake direct enforcement is limited to Shire owned land and Shire managed reserves. However, Shire staff may be able to assist with enforcement on other lands by serving as a point of contact for complaints by residents and reserve visitors.</p> <p>It is difficult to collect sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute in court. New technologies such as drones may provide new opportunities to identify offences and offenders. Collaborative approaches between agencies including WA Police to 'blitz' across multiple land tenures may be investigated.</p>
34.	Note importance of fungi and soil biodiversity.	This is recognised within the LBS (including the lack of data). Some additional information included in the Opportunities section.
35.	Support landowner assistance for conservation, including suggestion for rate rebates or subsidies, or contributions from the broader Perth Metropolitan Region to help maintain natural areas on private property as 'the lungs and kidneys of Perth.'	<p>The need for additional support for conservation on private land is recognised within the LBS.</p> <p>Rate discounts and rebates funded by other Shire ratepayers are not considered viable due to the extent of local natural area on private properties within the Shire, and the limited urban growth potential.</p> <p>Landowners with significant natural areas may be able to access some financial assistance through the proposed national Biodiversity Certificates scheme.</p>
36.	Provide for Environmental Management System and risk assessment.	An Environmental Management System (EMS) would improve transparency and accountability for decisions affecting the natural environment, but would be time consuming to implement and maintain. Current staff and resources are already stretched, and additional resources are recommended to be directed to improving on-ground environmental management and coordination between shire services and volunteers. Given the limited resources available implementation of an EMS has not been recommended as an action. This may be reconsidered when the LBS is reviewed in 2026/2027 or if substantial additional resources for environmental management became available beforehand.
37.	Sustainability of economic growth models, adoption of triple bottom line accounting and properly valuing the natural environment.	Deep concerns about widespread environmental degradation and broad social and economic sustainability are increasingly common, but not able to be addressed within the scope of the LBS. These concerns have informed the aims of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals or 'Global Goals' which are more specific than triple bottom line

		accounting. Where work undertaken by the Shire through the LBS is aligned with particular Global Goals this could be included in annual reports to Council.
38.	Include an all-of Shire community engagement plan about environmental protection.	The Shire has a general Community Engagement Framework. Environmental education is ongoing and adaptable to community interest, environmental issues and management needs as they arise. A specific separate plan is not recommended.
39.	Signs or education initiatives against feeding ducks/wildlife.	Signs warning against feeding ducks or wildlife may be necessary at water bodies such as Lake Leschenaultia or Broz Park (planned installation for this year). Shire environmental education initiatives emphasise providing water for wildlife rather than food.
40.	Concept of hills local nursery for re-vegetation.	There are multiple privately owned nurseries that are propagating native seedlings suitable for use within the Shire at competitive prices. In addition, there are local native plants propagated and made available through plant sales from Trillion Trees and the Eastern Hills Branch of the Wildflower Society of WA. This has not been included as a separate action but may be an element included in future consideration for establishment of a Landcare Centre.

This report and the associated attachments were presented to the Environmental Advisory Committee on 27 March 2023. The meeting was conducted as if it was a formal Environmental Advisory Committee, however, as some members joined the meeting virtually (ie via Cisco Webex), pursuant to section 5.25 (1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, the meeting could not be recorded as constituting a formal meeting of the committee. The meeting was nevertheless important as it provided an opportunity for committee members to provide feedback on the LBS. Following some discussion regarding the vision statement, the majority of Environmental Advisory Committee members in attendance recommended the LBS be adopted by Council.

It is important to note the full, successful implementation of the Strategy will require future budget decisions that result in additional staff and resources for environmental management. Actions that will result in additional staff are considered highest priority as they will have the greatest impact in improving environmental management and biodiversity conservation. However, these decisions will also be based on the specific business cases that are prepared and the range of budget pressures and priorities that Council must take into account in its annual corporate business plan and budget process.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorses the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy, as shown in **Attachment 1**.

COUNCIL DECISION MOTION	C8.04.23		
Moved by	Cr Hurst	Seconded by	Cr Zlatnik

That Council endorses the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy, as shown in **Attachment 1**, with the following amendment:

- The vision statement to read as follows:

“Biodiversity and natural areas are protected, connected and cared for through informed community stewardship and Shire leadership, empowering a strong culture of conservation.”

Reason for Change to Recommendation

Our Local Biodiversity Strategy is a strong strategy, which outlines our goals & plans to preserve and restore our natural environment.

Our vision needs to better reflect the role the Shire has in partnering with community to ensure our vision is achieved.

CARRIED 8/1

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik and Cr Beale

Against: Cr Cicchinii

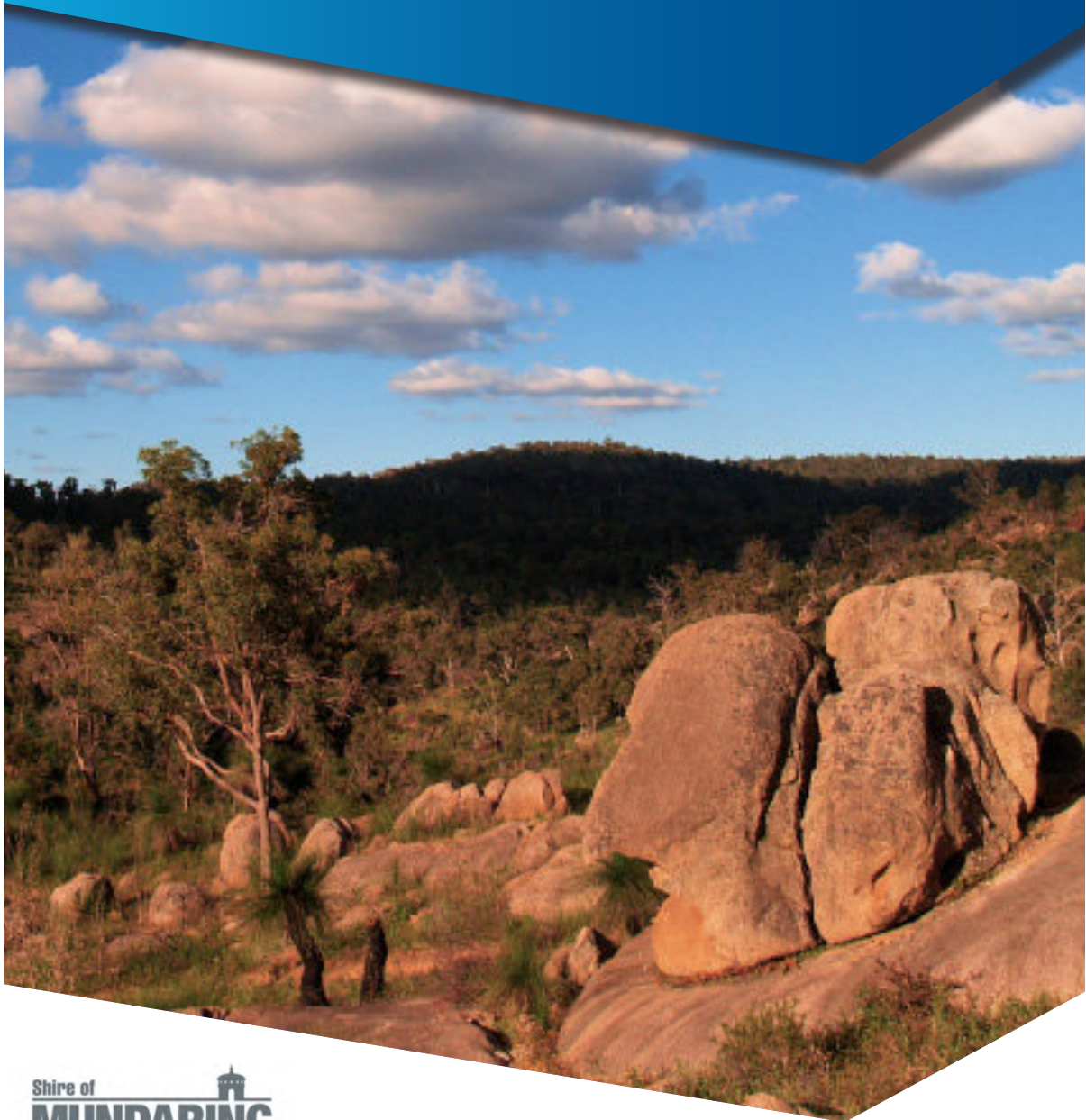
8.06pm, Cr Cicchini left the meeting

8.06pm, Cr Cook left the meeting

8.07pm, Cr Cicchini returned to the meeting

8.12pm, Cr Cook returned to the meeting

Local Biodiversity Strategy 2023 - 2030



Draft

Acknowledgement of Country



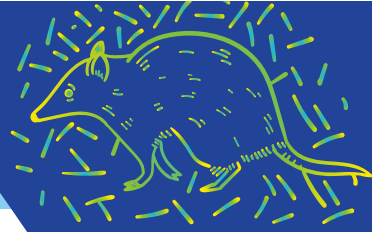
Mundadjalina-k ngala kaditj Noongar moort nidja Wadjak boodjar-ak kalyakool moondang-ak kaaradj-midi. Ngala Noongar Moort wer baalabang moorditj kaadidjiny koota-djinanginy. Ngala Noongar wer Torres Strait Moort-al dandjoo koorliny kwaba-djinanginy. Koorla, yeyi wer kalyakool, ngalak Aboriginal wer Torres Strait birdiya wer moort koota-djinanginy.

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

Images: Front cover: Title John Forrest Vista by Rene Baur

This page: Enchanted by Aaron Cuthbert

Foreword from Shire President



Biodiversity is the diversity of life on earth. Our local biodiversity is the Shire's living landscape, including all native plants and animals.

The health of the natural environment underpins the health and wellbeing of our community, and the strength of our local economy.

This Strategy identifies threats to our local biodiversity including clearing, dieback, invasive species and climate change.

It also identifies ways that the Shire and other custodians of natural areas can help protect our natural heritage for the future.

The Shire cares for important natural areas within local conservation reserves, but they will not be viable in the long term without strong connections to natural areas managed by individual landowners and the State Government.

An important element of this Strategy is the Wildlife Corridor Network which connects important local nature reserves with larger regional and national parks. The Wildlife Corridor Network includes major watercourses as well as local and regional ecological linkages.

These connections across the landscape provide for the continued movement of wildlife to maintain genetic diversity and re-colonise areas after fire, and also allow for pollination and seed dispersal to maintain plant diversity.

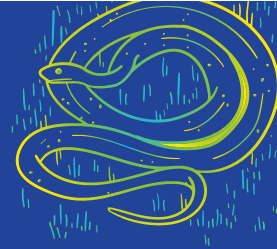
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all community members who provided feedback on the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy. Your insights and ideas have been essential in informing many of the issues and actions addressed in this final document.

It is my great pleasure to present the Shire of Mundaring's Local Biodiversity Strategy 2023 - 2030.



Cr James Martin
Shire President

Executive Summary

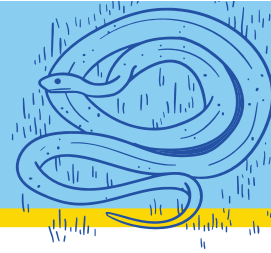


The Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy maps a pathway for the Shire to tackle environmental threats, and celebrate and enhance our natural and cultural heritage.

Community surveys repeatedly raise environment as a key priority and this is reflected in the Shire's Community Strategic Plan. Council adopted as a 10 year priority, 'Shire-led conservation, protection and retention of natural areas' and the overall vision for the area as:

'A Place for Sustainable Living'

Executive Summary



Whether it is promoting nature-based tourism or carefully managing bushfire risk to avoid catastrophic wildfires; the Shire's social and economic success is intrinsically linked to a well-managed environment.

The Shire's ability to undertake, assist and advocate for environmental management differs across reserves, verges and privately owned land. The Shire is directly responsible for managing 1,310 hectares of native vegetation, spread over many reserves of various sizes. Integrating bushfire and biodiversity management within our nature reserves provides an opportunity to lead by example and share management approaches with residents, who collectively manage another 6,130 hectares of natural areas on private property.

Maintaining biodiversity values on local reserves and private properties also helps maintain the important wildlife corridor network between national parks. There are 35,000 hectares of native vegetation within the Shire managed by the State Government (and Water Corporation) in national parks, state forests and water catchment.

The United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021 – 2030) aims to address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity decline.

Many of our native species and ecosystems will also be increasingly affected by climate change over the coming decades. At a local level, custodianship of natural areas may include environmental restoration after fire, drought or heatwave impacts.

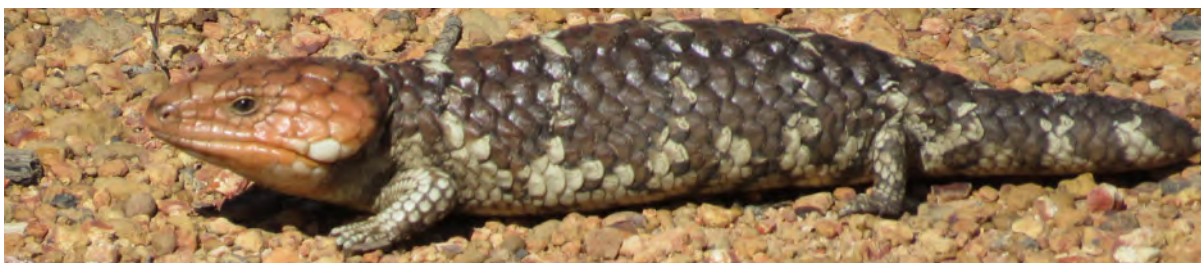
To add to the complexity, our natural areas are part of an intricate web of life that we are still learning about. It is likely there are still many small species that have not been identified and named, and relatively few have been studied well enough to understand their current habitat and conservation requirements.

The Shire can participate in research, or facilitate connections and sharing of knowledge for better biodiversity conservation.

The Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee assisted in developing this vision for the Shire's new Local Biodiversity Strategy:

Biodiversity and natural areas are protected, connected and cared for through community stewardship and a strong culture of conservation.

A deeper sense of custodianship of land and water will be required, as well as a willingness by all stakeholders to communicate, collaborate and continuously improve land management practices.

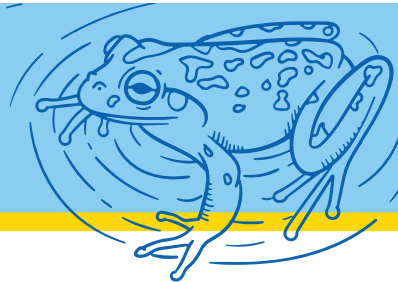


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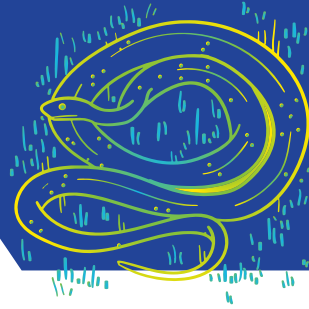


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Introduction



The Shire of Mundaring is located within the south-west Western Australian ‘global biodiversity hotspot’. This means that this region is biologically rich with diverse plants, animals and ecosystems, but also that they are under threat.

The Shire contains significant areas of forested national parks and protected water catchments. This provides important habitat for many native animals – but with a relatively small-dispersed population and rates base, also presents a challenge caring for parks and reserves over a large geographical area.

In most cases there is very limited knowledge of our native animal population, and scarce information about fungi (which play important roles in tree and forest health). By contrast there is extensive mapping of remnant native vegetation, so this is used as the foundation of biodiversity planning in the Perth Metropolitan Region.

Traditional Owners

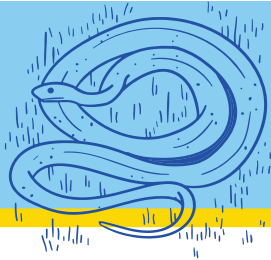
The traditional owners of most of the Shire area are the Whadjuk (Wajuk) Noongar people, with Aboriginal occupancy dating back tens of thousands of years. The north-east part of the Shire extends into Ballardong country. Evidence suggests that forests within the southwest of Western Australia were subject to cool mosaic burns by Noongar people, using fire to carefully shape the forest structure. It appears some areas were rarely burnt. Natural areas with a range of ages since fire provide more diverse habitats.

Colonisation removed Noongar people from their traditional lands and prevented the continuation and teaching of cultural practices, which has caused significant loss of knowledge of native plants, animals, and land management.



The AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia – southwest Western Australia (from aiatsis.gov.au)

Introduction



Historic Development

European settlement of the area increased from the 1840s. The colonial population was minimal until the 1880’s, with small villages established mainly along the railway line and Great Eastern Highway (formerly the York Road). Significant growth came in the early 1900s, following the construction of the Mundaring Weir.

This continued well after the post-war years, particularly during the 1970s and 1980s.

Development and growth has had a significant impact on biodiversity values. During early settlement, natural biodiversity was treated as both a potential resource and an impediment to opening up productive rural land uses.

Historical aerial imagery from 1961 illustrates the legacy from early colonisation and government policy. When compared to 2020, vegetation canopy density has grown simultaneously as the population density increased. The Shire and other land managers are now left with complex land management issues.



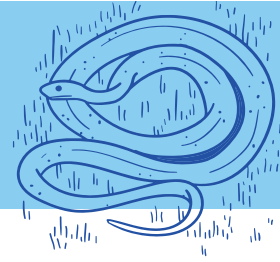
Lacey’s ‘Enterprise Saw Mill’ at Sawyers Valley - 1890s. Photo courtesy of the State Library of WA

The Shire now contains a combination of large areas of untouched or regrowth forest, amongst manicured gardens, lawn and introduced plants that have, in some cases, become invasive species.

Many residents of the Shire have either grown up in the area, or moved for lifestyle ‘tree-change’ reasons. This has also served to reinforce community values about the importance of the environment. Since early settlement, community attitudes have shifted away from exploitation towards celebrating nature and biodiversity.

As climate change intensifies and the threat of bushfire increases, the Shire must continue to reconcile necessary bushfire risk mitigation with biodiversity conservation.

Introduction



Below are aerial images covering the Hovea/ Parkerville area, showing change and development over the past six decades. Watercourses are shown in blue as reference points.

Significant regrowth of native vegetation has occurred in some locations, while the density of settlement has increased significantly. The form of residential and semi-rural subdivision that occurred in past decades would not be permitted under current Western Australian Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines.



**1961 aerial photo -
Hovea/Parkerville**



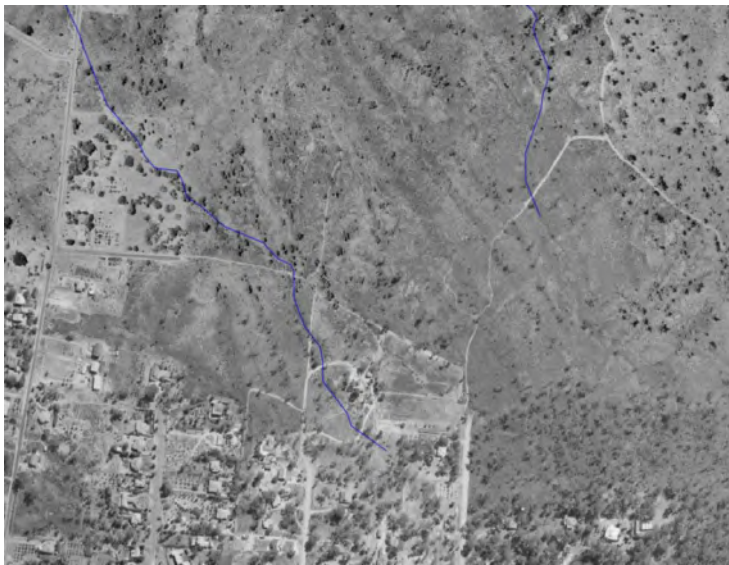
**2020 aerial photo -
Hovea/Parkerville**

Introduction



Below are aerial images covering part of the Swan View/Greenmount area, showing change and development of the past six decades. Watercourses are shown in blue as reference points.

Denser settlement has been possible on the coastal plain where lots were connected to deep sewerage.



1961 aerial photo - Swan View Brown Park to John Forrest National Park



2020 aerial photo - Swan View Brown Park to John Forrest National Park

Introduction

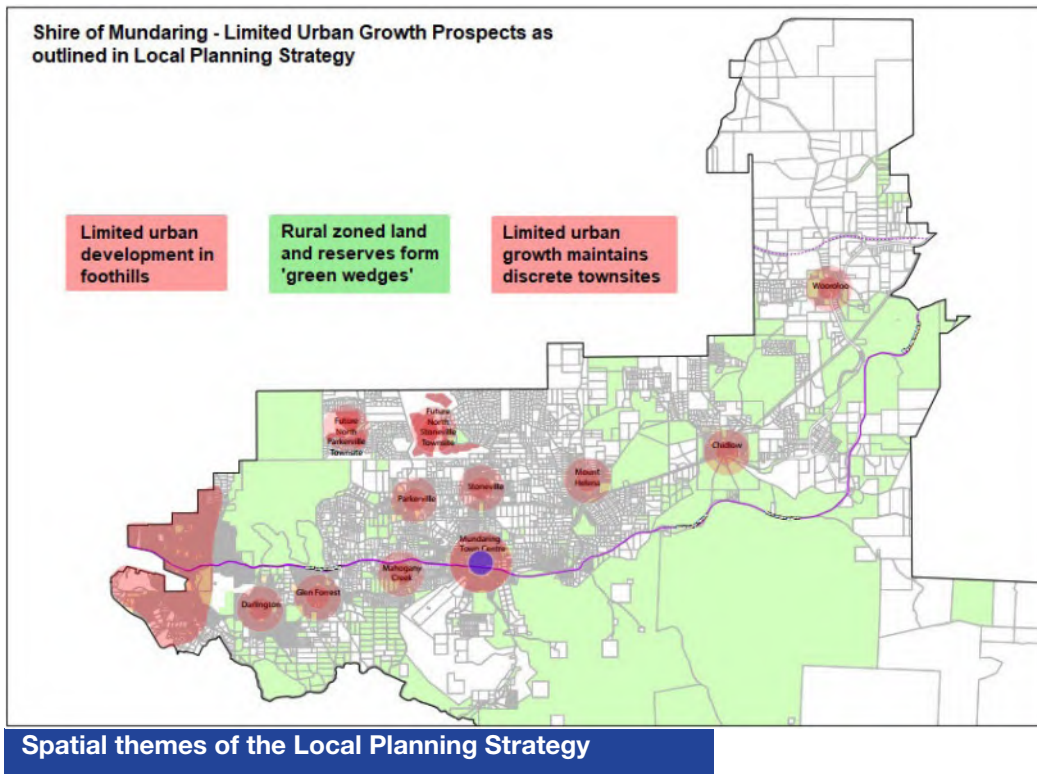


Local Planning Strategy

The Shire’s Local Planning Strategy (2013) recognised the historic growth pattern, current constraints and community aspirations and adopted:

- a low growth approach to account for the natural geophysical constraints (topography, soil, vegetation, bushfire) in the eastern portion of the Shire;
- limited growth in or near existing townsites where appropriate;
- two designated new townsites North Parkerville and North Stoneville, (that may or may not eventuate for the purposes of this strategy); and
- subdivision potential directed to infill in the existing foothills urban areas.

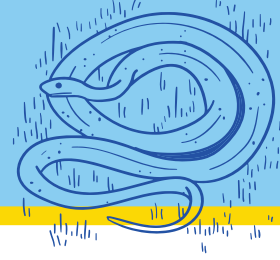
The rural wedges and natural spaces between nodes of existing local centres will continue to be the defining characteristic of the Shire.



The future of the North Parkerville and North Stoneville townsites is still somewhat unknown and ultimately rests with the State Government and/or the State Administrative Tribunal.

The Local Planning Strategy also introduced mapping and protection of Local Natural Areas based on the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009, which are still in effect (and effective).

Introduction



Strategic Community Plan

The Strategic Community Plan (2020 - 2030) is a long-term guiding document for the Shire of Mundaring, developed following broad consultation about community values, concerns and vision for the future. Preparing an updated Local Biodiversity Strategy was an action identified within the Shire's Strategic Community Plan (SCP).



Community

Healthy, safe, sustainable and resilient community where businesses flourish and everyone belongs

Natural environment

A natural environment that is protected, sustainable and enjoyed



Built Environment

Transport, infrastructure and planning for liveable, connected communities

Governance

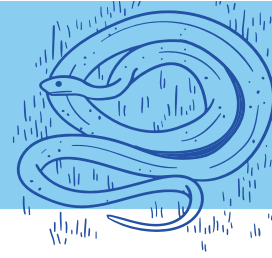
Trusted, leading and listening local government



Over the 10 year life of the SCP, a priority of the Council is 'Shire-led conservation, protection and retention of natural areas'.

To ensure this LBS is aligned with Community and Council expectations, it must seek to enhance environmental outcomes, amongst other goals and including the importance of measured and appropriate bushfire preparedness for community safety.

Introduction



Environmental Sustainability Policy

The Shire's Environmental Sustainability Policy was adopted in 2018. It consolidates the Shire's strategic position on key environmental issues and provides a basis for future environmental initiatives. Its purpose is:

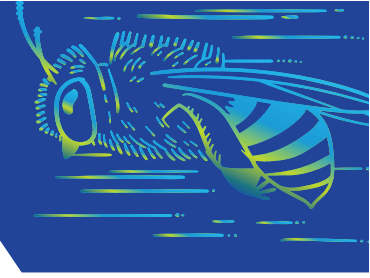
To establish a sustainable Shire that demonstrates our corporate and community commitment to the environment and reflects our responsibility to its natural assets for future generations. The Shire strives to be a leader in local government sustainability and environmental management.

Although environmental management and sustainability at a global level are closely intertwined, the Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy is intended to focus on the protection and management of the natural environment. A 'sustainability strategy' or similar may be prepared at some future point.

The following guiding principles of the Environmental Sustainability Policy were identified as particularly relevant in the preparation of this Local Biodiversity Strategy:

- 1.1. Biodiversity and watercourse integrity should be maintained and mitigation measures will be considered where the works cannot be designed or constructed to avoid impacts.
- 1.2. The Shire will strive to lead by example in balancing bushfire risk management with maintaining biodiversity and conservation of natural landscapes.
- 1.3. Allocation of Shire resources for natural area management will take into account social and ecological values and the nature of threatening processes.
- 1.4. Human induced climate change is recognised as a key threat to biodiversity, requiring mitigation action to reduce carbon emissions at all levels of government, and adaptation to local impacts.
- 3.1. The Shire recognises that healthy ecosystems and well-managed natural areas support the health and well-being of the community, and the Shire will strive to lead by example as a responsible custodian of public environmental assets.
- 4.2. The Shire will remain agile; learning and collaborating with community groups, research institutions and relevant government agencies to adapt best practice environmental management to fit the Shire's context.

Consolidating Environmental Strategies



Over the past 25 years the Shire had developed a number of separate plans and strategies focussed on particular elements of the natural environment. These included a Wildlife Corridor Strategy (2000), Community Education Strategy (2002), Local Biodiversity Strategy (2009), Environmental Management Plan (2012) and Roadside Conservation Strategy (2016).

Each of these plans or strategies served a purpose at the time, and supported many Shire projects, successful grant applications, and collaboration with environmental volunteers and other organisations. However, continuing to create and update many discrete plans and strategies does not aid Shire staff and volunteers to understand and work together towards a common goal.

The Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee has agreed that it was advantageous for the Shire move to away from overlapping single issue strategies, and consolidate these into a discrete higher-level document with a clear line of sight to the Shire's Community Strategy Plan and Local Planning Strategy.

The original Local Biodiversity Strategy had a significant focus on identifying local natural areas on private land and adding protection from clearing through the local planning framework, informed by vegetation complex. This is outlined in Appendix 1.

The goals set in this regard have largely been met, and the success of the previous strategy is noted in Appendix 1. An update on the extent remaining in different vegetation complexes is provided in Appendix 2.

This Local Biodiversity Strategy now seeks to draw together and consolidate actions to protect the natural environment into a single document that more clearly states the Shire's intent and guides staff efforts.

A review of implementation of the actions under previous strategies was undertaken by Shire staff, followed by a peer review by an environmental consultancy including a previous employee of the Shire (past Coordinator of Environment). The plans reviewed were:

- Local Biodiversity Strategy
- Roadside Conservation Strategy
- Wildlife Corridor Strategy
- Private Land Conservation Strategy
- Community Education Strategy
- Environmental Management Plan
- Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (actions relevant to biodiversity)
- Local Planning Strategy (actions relevant to biodiversity)
- Eastern Region Catchment Management Plan

This review found that, of 530 actions across nine plans and strategies, just over 50% had been fully completed. Nearly 20% of actions were considered partially complete or 'ongoing'. Some actions were noted to now be the responsibility of other organisations, or established as business as usual for the Shire. Overall, 14% were assessed as no longer relevant. Some duplication of similar actions was also noted across the nine documents, supporting the approach to consolidate strategies relating to the natural environment.

Consolidating Environmental Strategies



The reviewers noted that implementation of Local Biodiversity Strategies and overall pursuit of the Community Strategic Plan vision, 'A place for sustainable living', will require a holistic approach. A number of themes were identified relevant to environmental management and the consolidated Local Biodiversity Strategy, including training, education, volunteer engagement, mapping, funding, advocacy and research.

Bushfire risk and implementing bushfire mitigation for community safety whilst protecting, conserving, and enhancing biodiversity was noted as one of the biggest challenges. Both planned fire and wildfire can have impacts on native species, and different species have different requirements. Fire mitigation works can also provide opportunities for significant weed control and can coordinate with actions that support biodiversity conservation on both public and private land.

The review also noted that available staff and resources will limit the implementation of any plan or strategy. In this regard the reviewers suggested additional staffing resources be acquired.

These suggestions were provided from assessing the actions not completed and summarising the gaps and/or workload associated with the implementation.

Suggestions included:

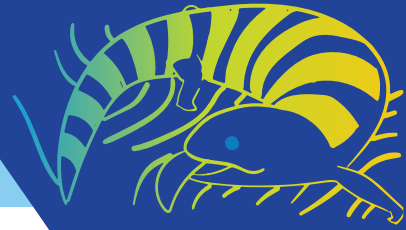
- a stewardship officer to assist with private land conservation, education and training;
- a strategic environmental officer to assist with data (mapping), research, advocacy, funding and implementation of strategic objectives of the LBS;
- a reserve management officer or fire ecologist helps with environmental reserve management including a strong fire education background; and
- further bolstering the area of catchment support and volunteers within the friends group framework may require an additional resource/partnership.

Previous strategies had recommended the creation of a part time Stewardship Officer position and a Reserve Management Officer.

Rather than create a new and separate position of Stewardship Officer, this Strategy has recommended an increase to the capacity of existing part time Environmental Officers.

Business cases will be required as part of the annual Council budget process for future creation of new environmental positions, or further increases to part time positions.

Opportunities



Biodiversity is defined in Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030:

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on earth – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

There is State and Commonwealth Government legislation that provides for protection of biodiversity, listing of threatened species and ecosystems, and approval processes for actions that may impact on biodiversity. The key legislation is:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (National)*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA)*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (WA)*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005 (WA)*

The Shire of Mundaring is located within the South West Australia Ecoregion which is Australia's only Global Biodiversity Hotspot. Although this Ecoregion only covers 5% of Australia, it contains about 8,000 plant species, which is more than one-third of Australia's known flowering plants. The Ecoregion is also home to many unique fauna and it is designated as a 'Hotspot' because its rich biodiversity is under threat.

Protection of Local Biodiversity

Shire of Mundaring has a range of advantages and opportunities to conserve biodiversity. First and foremost, the Shire has retained a far greater extent of remnant native vegetation and natural watercourses than most local government areas within the Perth Metropolitan Region.

This means that there are native plants and animals still in functioning ecosystems and natural areas, including the great diversity of life underground. Fungi and micro-organisms within the soil are an invisible but essential part of natural ecosystems and support forest health.

Clearing of native vegetation is primarily governed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation clearing permit process under the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*.

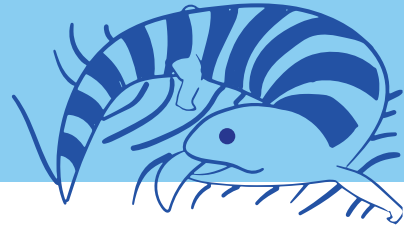
Through the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, the Shire provides some additional protection of native vegetation through provisions in the Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

However, there are also specific exemptions in recognition of existing property rights and bushfire safety requirements.

The additional protection through Local Planning Scheme No. 4 is based on the mapping and prioritisation of remnant vegetation following the Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for the Perth Metropolitan Region (2004).

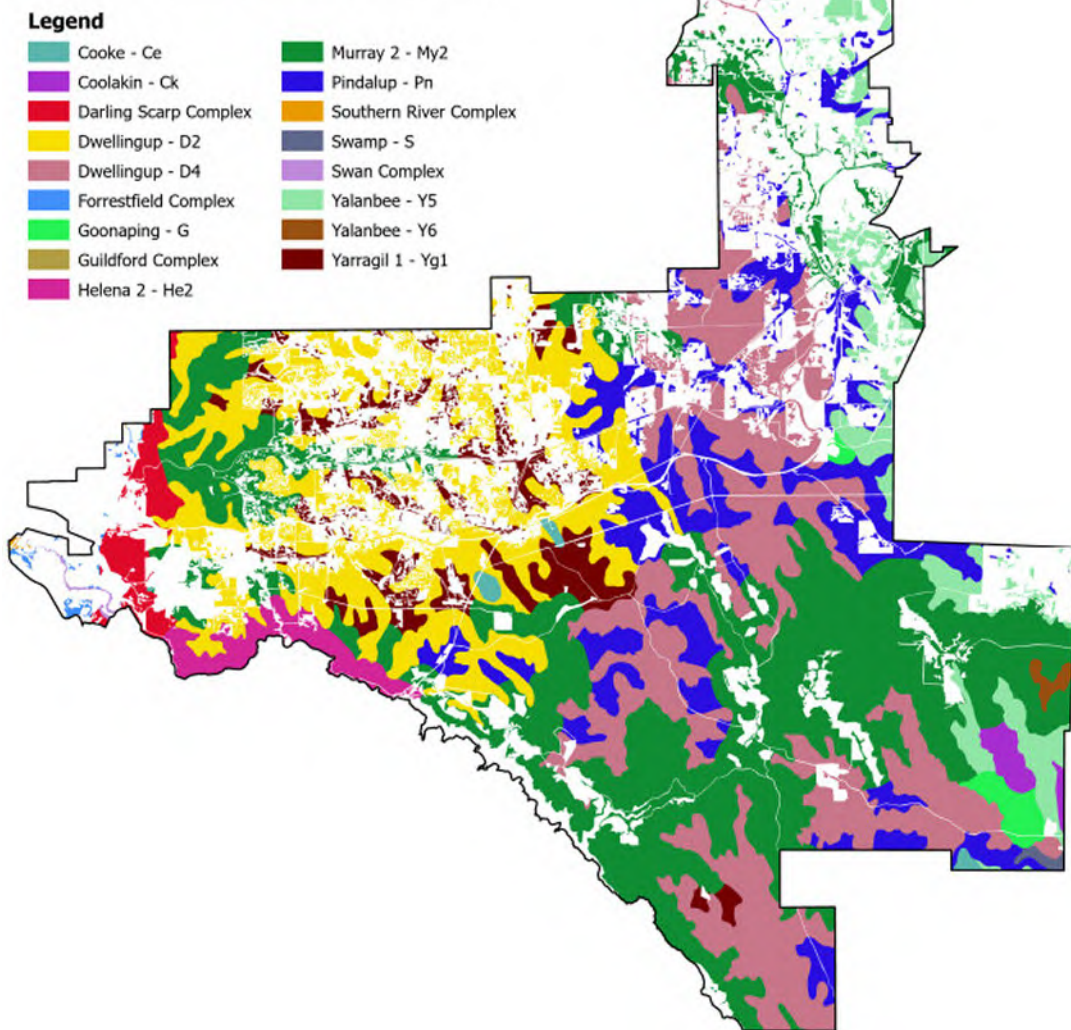
The Guidelines provide for biodiversity planning using vegetation complexes as a proxy for ecological diversity. This is a pragmatic approach given the many knowledge gaps for particular species and ecosystems.

Opportunities



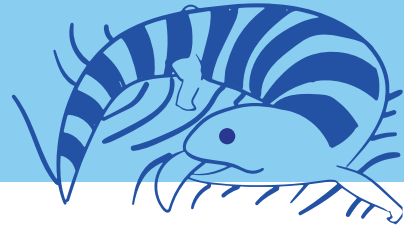
The extent of remnant vegetation in the Shire is shown below by vegetation complex. This mapping was undertaken by the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) in 2020 through its now-ceased Environmental Planning Tool (LG Maps) service, using data provided by State Government agencies.

Native Vegetation Complexes within Shire of Mundaring



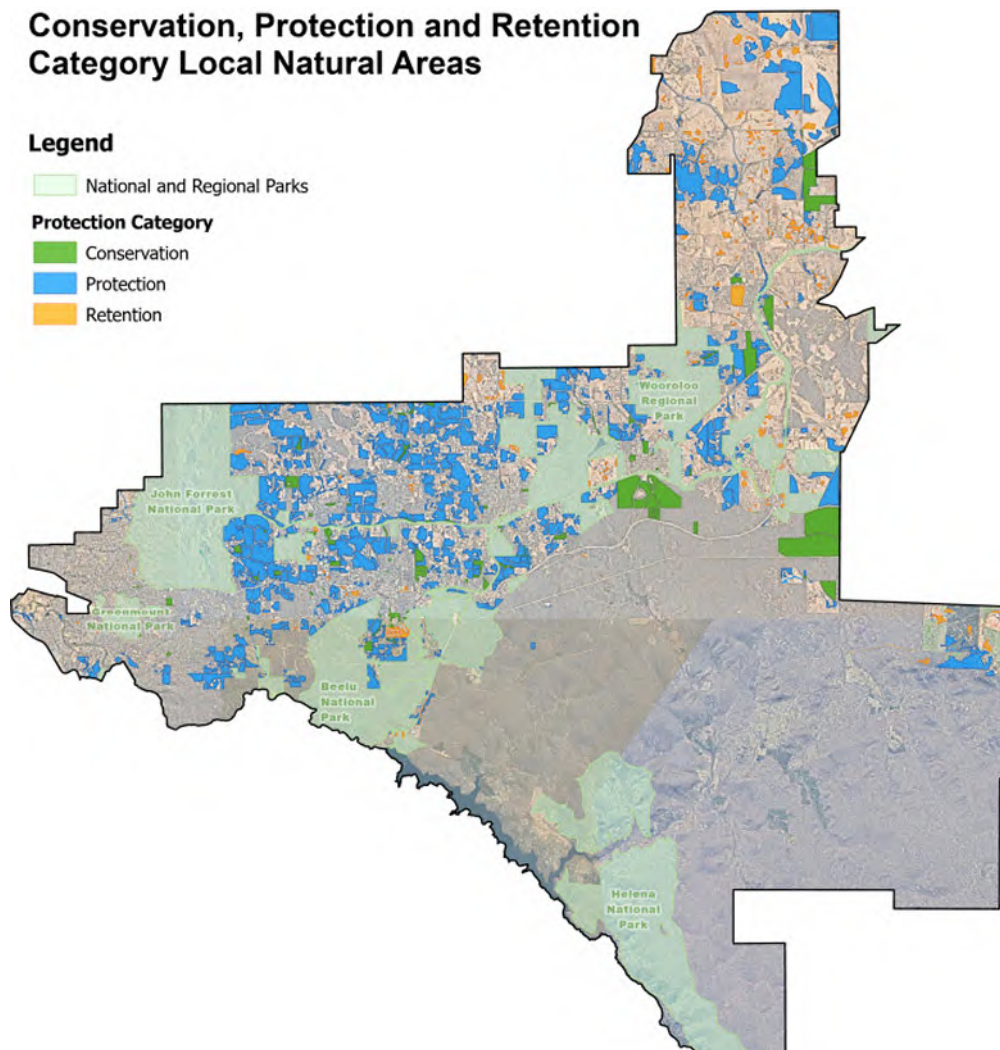
Native Vegetation Extent by Vegetation Complex in Shire of Mundaring (2020)

Opportunities



Mapping and prioritisation of remnant native vegetation outside of the State’s conservation estate was completed in developing the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009. This was given effect through inclusion of Local Natural Area (LNA) mapping in the Local Planning Strategy and specific clauses in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (see Appendix 1). Areas of LNA shown below have been classified as Conservation, Protection or Retention, and other LNA that has limited protection due to the zoning and existing development rights should still be retained where possible.

Conservation, Protection and Retention Category Local Natural Areas



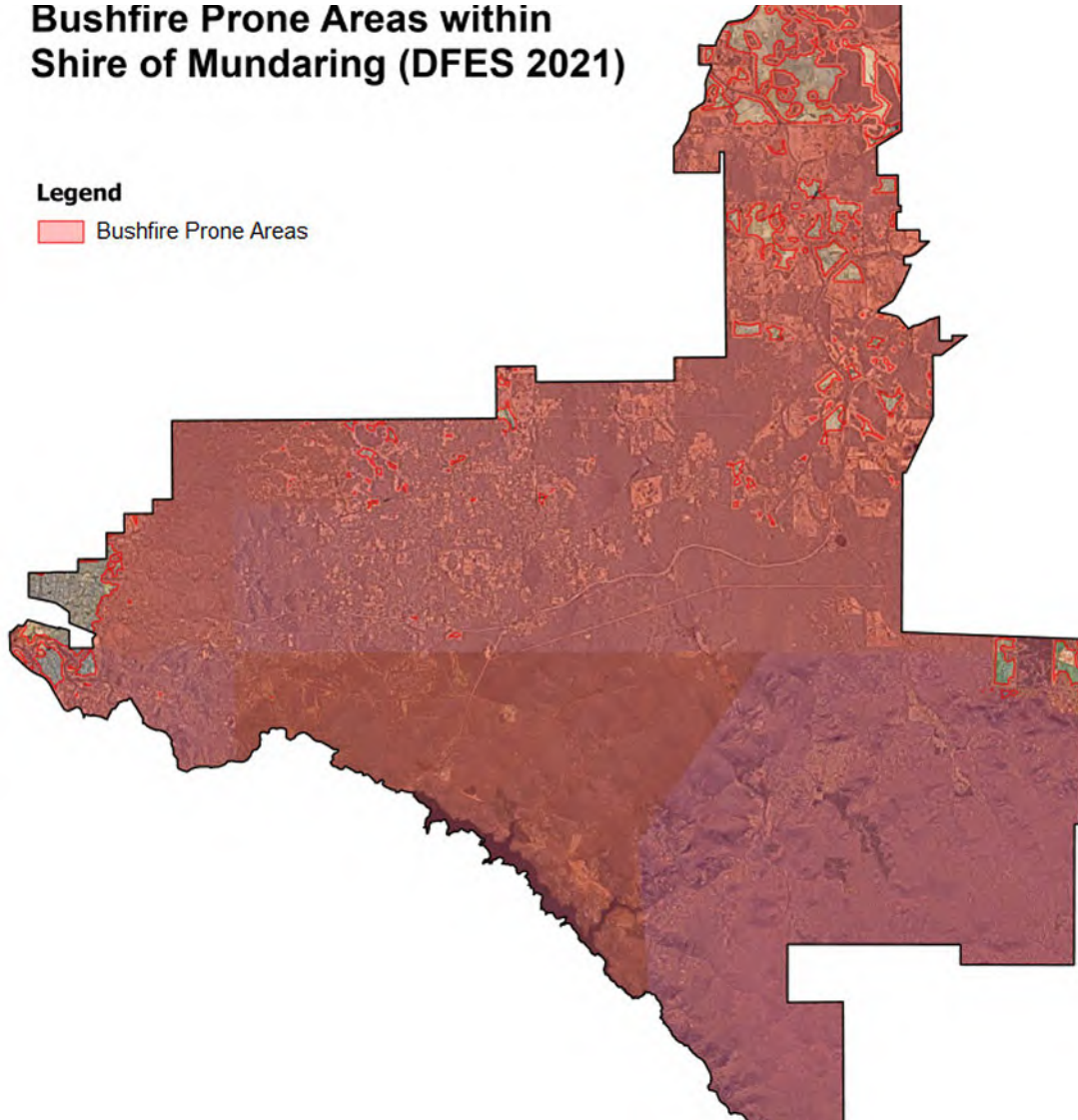
Protected Local Natural Areas and National and Regional Parks

Opportunities



The Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 also included provisions regarding bushfire risk, which sought to balance environmental protection with protection of human life and property. Mapping of Bushfire Prone Areas is now undertaken by the State Government.

Bushfire Prone Areas within Shire of Mundaring (DFES 2021)



**Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner
Designated Bushfire Prone Areas**

Opportunities



The designation of areas of intact native vegetation as 'Local Natural Areas' provides a trigger for a planning application and local environmental assessment where clearing is proposed. This includes clearing that is required to address bushfire risk under the State Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas. DFES has encouraged the Shire to consider refusing or objecting to proposals where biodiversity and bushfire matters cannot be reconciled, rather than providing for or recommending conditional approval.

While the native vegetation protection provisions in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 do not protect all native vegetation (particularly on smaller, residential lots) they do provide more extensive environmental protection than many equivalent local planning schemes and have been regarded as best practice in WA.

Local Planning Scheme No. 4 also provides for additional protection of watercourses and riparian vegetation. This is in addition to the requirements for permits from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for permits to interfere with the beds and banks of a watercourse.

The Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy that was prepared concurrently with this Local Biodiversity Strategy assessed the health of watercourses within the Shire and the adequacy of provisions within the local planning framework. Watercourses naturally form an integral component of wildlife corridor networks. They will become increasingly important as water sources and refuges in a changing climate.

Implementation of recommendations within the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy will also help protect biodiversity through protecting riparian areas from inappropriate development, and managing stormwater flows to retain more water in the landscape while preventing erosion.

Valuing the Natural Environment

Many residents are already actively involved in caring for the natural environment, whether on their own property or as a volunteer. People take pride and joy in establishing wildlife friendly gardens and seeing native species breed in nest boxes they have installed.



Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Chick in Nest Box (Photo courtesy of Simon Cherriman)

Opportunities



The importance of biodiversity and benefits of time in nature for human health and well-being is increasingly well recognised. Our natural landscapes and biodiversity are also central to the character and identity of the Shire, and celebrated in works by local artists.

Protection of the Shire's natural assets also supports aspirations of the Shire's Tourism and Economic Development Strategy to capitalise on and enhance the Shire's natural assets without compromising its highly valued and unique natural environment. The combination of proximity to greater Perth and an attractive, biodiverse landscape will continue to provide tourism and economic opportunities.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Native species, pests and environmental issues cross boundaries. The Shire has a history of collaborating with neighbouring local governments and regional organisations for successful environmental initiatives. This includes support for Friends Groups and Catchment Groups through the long-running Eastern Region Catchment Management Program.

There may be new opportunities to improve biodiversity conservation through participating in trials or adapting environmental management based on new environmental research; improving use of remote monitoring technology, and better mapping and sharing of spatial information.

There may also be opportunities to participate in environmental offsets, carbon sequestration and biodiversity certification initiatives of the State and Commonwealth Governments.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is a significant land manager within the Shire. A collaborative approach would assist in the coordinated management of local and State Government managed lands and biodiversity values.

This may include initiatives to prevent illegal clearing; carefully reducing bushfire risks; and tackling threats to the State forest, national parks and nature reserves caused by illegal off-road vehicles, feral animals, firewood collection and rubbish dumping. New technologies such as drones may provide new and safer opportunities to identify environmental damage and those responsible.

New opportunities for collaboration will arise from the transfer of lands to the Noongar Boodja Trust. The South West Native Title Settlement represents the most significant Native Title agreement in Australian history.

In essence, it recognises the Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of the South West and creates a "Noongar Land Estate." The Shire recognises this important settlement as a state response to longstanding Aboriginal land rights matters that can provide further cultural, social and economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It is understood up to 2.523 hectares of unallocated land/reserves within the Shire may ultimately fall under the control of the Noongar Boodja Trust. The South West Native Title Settlement will introduce new stakeholder/s to manage currently unmanaged Crown land in the Shire e.g. for ecological restoration and bushfire risk, as well as supporting the economy and Noongar culture.

Opportunities



Council endorsed the Shire's Reconciliation Plan at its meeting February 2022 Ordinary Council meeting with the recommendation:

“Support land transfers as recommended by State decision making processes.”

IA key principle of the agreement and ultimately land portfolio across the South-West is to ensure self-sustaining assets and responsible management regimes are in place.

The Trustee for the Noongar Boodja Trust (Trustee) and the associated Noongar Boodja Land Sub Pty Ltd (Land Sub) are the landholding bodies for the entirety of the Noongar Land Estate. The Trustee was appointed on 29 March 2021 and is Perpetual Trustees Ltd., a professional property management trustee with a global land portfolio.

The Noongar Boodja Trust (the central corporate body of the 6 ILUAs – Indigenous Land Use Agreements) can apply to use Noongar Land Estate to:

...provide significant opportunities for the Noongar community to achieve sustainable economic, social and cultural outcomes (SWALSC website).

Consideration of land for inclusion in the Noongar Land Estate and associated use/development is anticipated to occur incrementally over several years. The Shire will treat planning matters that arise like any other; acknowledging also that any land transfers that materialise have come about as a result of a State-led modern treaty and ultimately State decisions about Crown land.

Skill sharing and community development with the Noongar community in relation to environmental and bushfire management represents a significant opportunity.

In the meantime and when necessary, the Shire will express its land management expectations in relation to community safety (Bushfire Risk Management Plan) and environmental protection to any new parties taking over unallocated bush reserves – ensuring they are aware of the recurring management obligations and costs.

Opportunities to engage and collaborate with Aboriginal Corporations and coordinate and enhance land management practices will be pursued. One opportunity may be to extend an invitation to local representatives to nominate for membership or otherwise participate in the Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee meetings.

The Challenges Ahead



In addition to harnessing the opportunities there are many and varied environmental challenges before the Shire. Some are ongoing and well-known threats to biodiversity including weed invasion, feral animals, and clearing.

Other challenges are contextual; meaning they either are a threat multiplier or are unavoidable organisational realities. For the Shire, these contextual challenges include climate change, bushfire, development pressure, fragmented land management, lack of knowledge, and available resources. Threatening processes interact, and unfortunately, many are likely to be accelerated or worsened by climate change.

Future Development & Growth

Given environmental limitations as well as lack of sewerage and bushfire risk, the Shire will remain a 'low growth' area of the Perth Metropolitan Area. This likely future both helps and hinders the Shire's ability to respond and sustain environmental initiatives.

It helps by reducing the immediate threat to biodiversity from clearing for development; but also hinders, because development can also enable the dedication of new conservation reserves, and additional rates revenue could support improved environmental services.

While growth is limited, there are other development and State policy trends that influence the retention of vegetation in the Shire.

Firstly, community aspirations and general prosperity is resulting in a building trend across Australia for larger dwellings. Larger houses require more clearing to build and establish 'bushfire asset protection zones'.

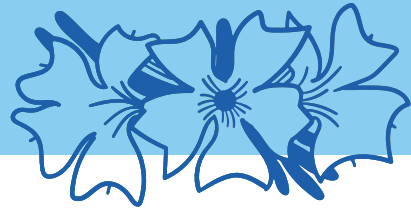
Compact well-designed dwellings are generally more energy efficient and cost effective and should be encouraged by the future LPS4 scheme requirements.

Since the WA Bushfire Guidelines were introduced in 2015, there have been regular updates. In some instances these have increased the local vegetation modification requirements.

Requirements for clearing within asset protection zones are now embedded in the State planning framework and building regulations. They may be reviewed and adjusted over time but are not expected to be withdrawn.

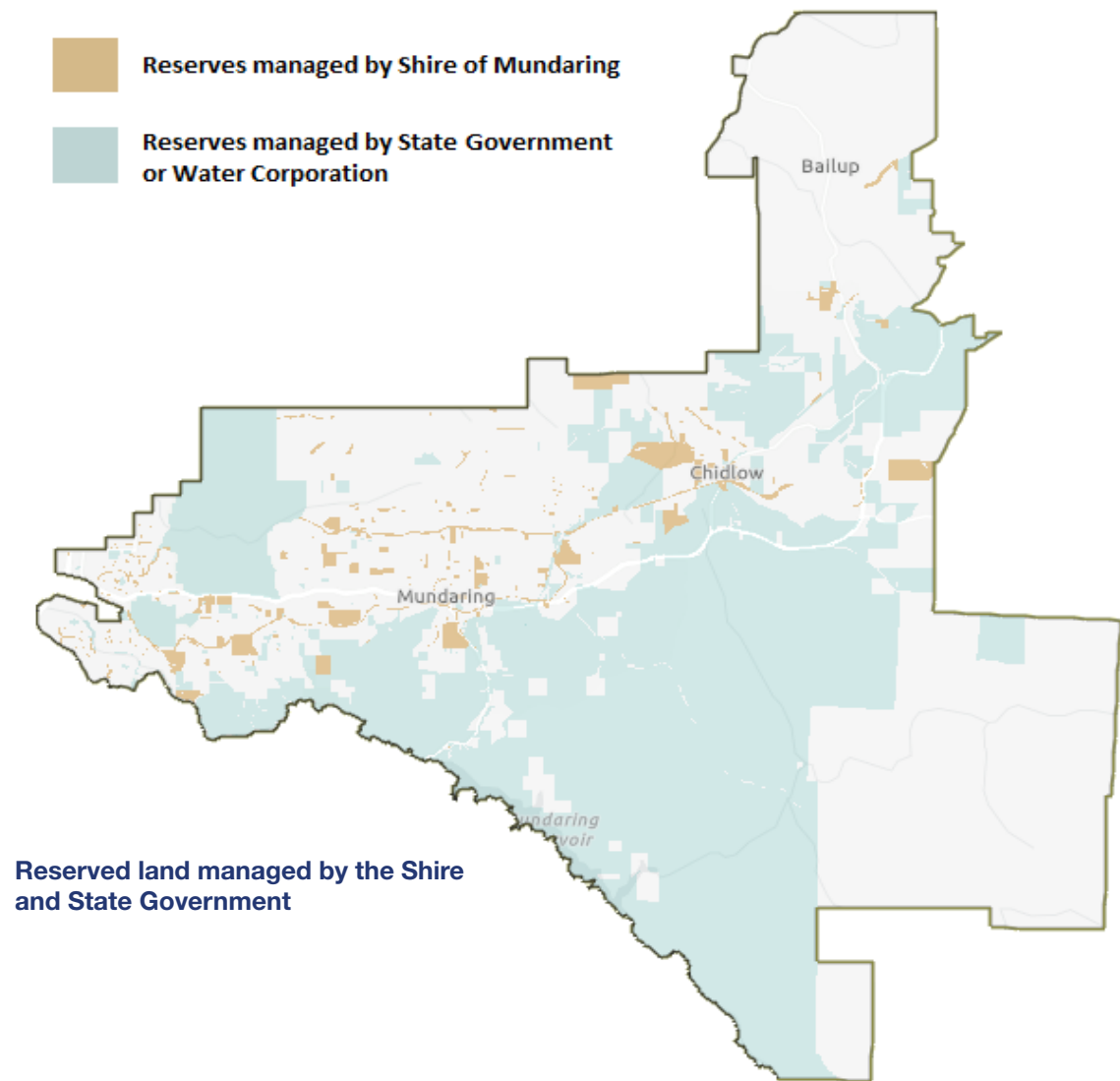
The Shire can exercise a degree of autonomy in setting local standards through the Fire Load and Fire Break Notice (Sec.33 Notice) for established dwellings. The Shire continues to participate in and monitor State policy and regulation to ensure reasonable and appropriate local standards remain.

The Challenges Ahead

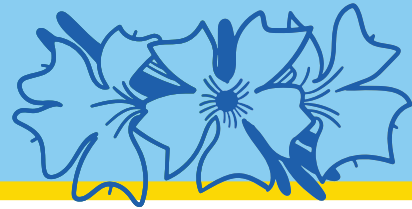


Scale and Resources

The Shire is responsible for managing native vegetation and natural areas over a very large area. The Shire manages 12,000ha of land including parks and nature reserves, 2,168 hectares of road reserve and 20ha of drainage reserves, with relatively few staff. In total, 584 parcels of Crown land are vested to the Shire for its care, control and management.



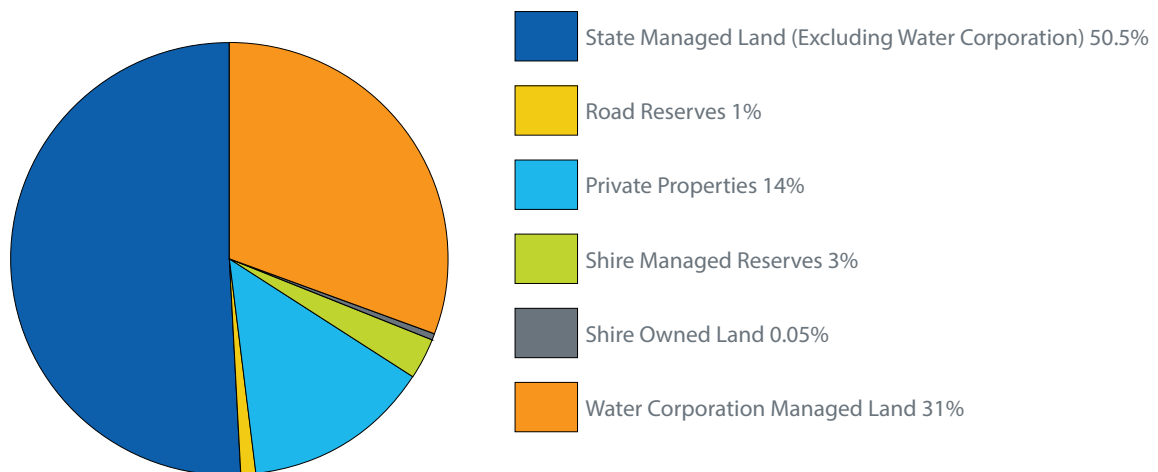
The Challenges Ahead



Percentage of Remaining Native Vegetation per Land Manager

Native vegetation extent for this region was last mapped by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in 2020. DPIRD has now discontinued production of this dataset and an alternative State Government agency may continue or develop an alternative dataset.

Using the 2020 native vegetation extent as the most recent available information, the percentage of natural area (using native vegetation) in each land management category has been calculated.

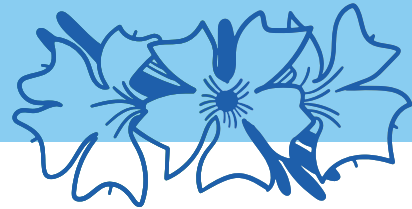


Important State managed reserves include John Forrest National Park, Greenmount National Park, Wooroloo Regional Park, Helena National Park and Beelu National Park (which include much of the catchment of the Helena River).

There are many parks and reserves that contain only degraded areas of native vegetation. Some of these have limited recreational value as well as low ecological values. Visitation and use of parks has changed over time with social and technological changes including declining household size, availability of home playground equipment, and the growth of online/electronic recreation.

Shire resources are spread thin over a large number of reserves, which reduces the management effort on more significant parks and natural areas.

The Challenges Ahead



Nature Reserves Managed by the Shire

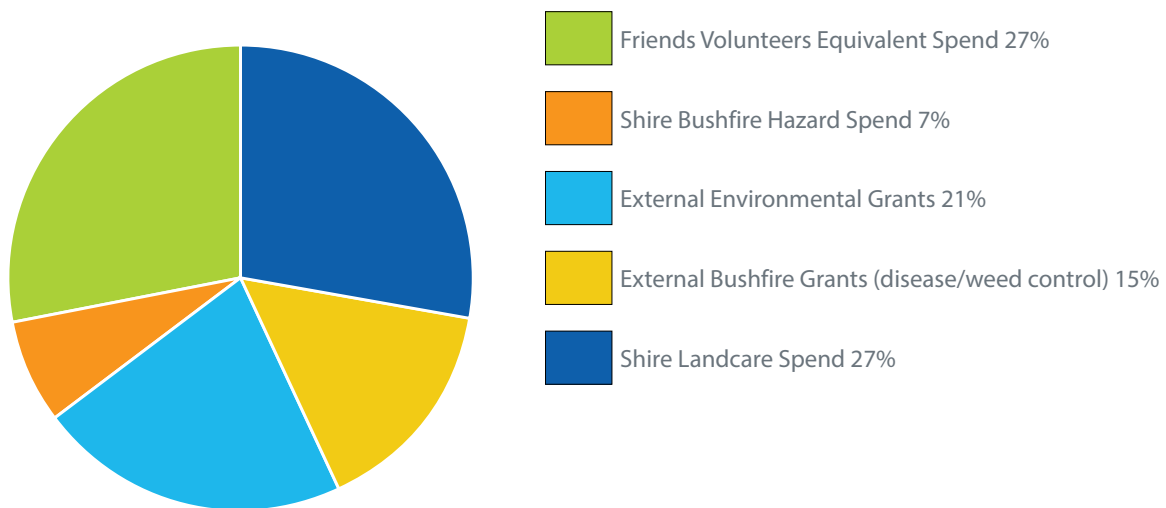
Ovals and landscaped parks require more intensive management but nature reserves represent a significant responsibility for the Shire, where obligations to maintain community safety meet obligations to maintain natural heritage and biodiversity as well as allow recreational access.

Management occurs through a combination of Shire emergency management and fire protection staff, landcare staff and volunteers. Since 2019-20 the Shire has been receiving annual Bushfire Mitigation Funding from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), with a significant portion of that funding directed to weed control and completing works that improve bushfire safety, but also reduce dieback spread.

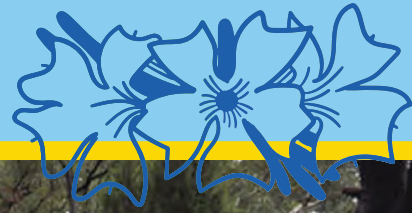
The chart below illustrates the proportionate spending on nature reserves. In recent years:

- The Shire’s direct contribution to landcare matches Friends Group contribution (when valuing volunteer effort at \$50 per hour); and
- Bushfire mitigation funding has effectively doubled the Shire’s external funding for activities that can improve biodiversity outcomes (most notably weed control).

While bushfire mitigation works will continue to have an immediate environmental and visual impact and need to be implemented with care, the funding has also made a substantial contribution to reduce weeds and bring reserves up to a more manageable state; reducing the risk of catastrophic landscape fires. Implementing smaller planned burns allows for greater opportunity for native animals to move out of the burn area, and a finer mosaic of fuel ages.



The Challenges Ahead



Seedlings for Landcare has supported Friends Group revegetation projects

Ultimately, the Shire's ability to manage these natural areas is significantly enhanced by the efforts of environmental volunteers, who as Friends Groups or Catchment Groups may also be eligible for funding that the Shire itself is not eligible to obtain. By way of example, in the 2021/22 financial year, 3,964 hours contributed by 72 Friends of the Reserves Groups with a replacement cost of \$190,311.64.

The role of a Friends Group is to help safely maintain and enhance the environmental values of bushland areas.

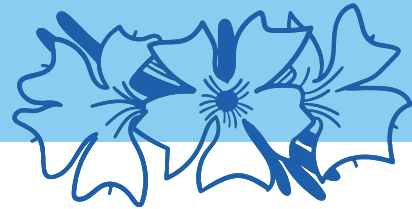
Friends Group volunteers collectively have made a noticeable difference to our environment over the years, and Shire of Mundaring is committed and proud to support our Friends Groups with access to support, training, expert advice, and assistance by contractors and the Shire Landcare team.

Friends Groups have undertaken substantial revegetation and rehabilitation works within their adopted reserves, often making use of native seedlings provided by the Shire through the Seedlings for Landcare program (formerly Tree Canopy and Understorey Program). They are often supported by Catchment Groups that work to coordinate environmental restoration over a broader area and improve the health of our rivers and watercourses.

To tackle the scale of the environmental management tasks across the shire, it is clear the Shire needs to continue to foster and nurture a strong volunteer network.

Collaborations with neighbouring councils and participation in regional initiatives can provide learning and networking opportunities between volunteers. They also provide opportunities for coordinated efforts to tackle threats across catchments and pursue larger regional scale restoration projects.

The Challenges Ahead



Road Reserves and Verges

There are 2,168 hectares of road reserve within the Shire.

Road reserves are multi-purpose corridors for transport, drainage, utilities and telecommunications infrastructure, and trees and vegetation. The Shire of Mundaring retains native vegetation within road reserves where practical, but is not able to actively manage roadsides for environmental enhancement due to resource constraints.

Instead, the Shire focuses on maintaining safety issues such as clearing sightlines, removing fallen trees, reducing fuel loads, clearing vegetation along footpaths, weed spray along kerb lines and hardstand areas, targeted removal of priority weed species, and maintaining drainage infrastructure by removing weeds or upgrading drains. Naturally occurring native trees and shrubs under powerlines are pruned by Western Power to meet their clearance requirements.

Verges are an area of shared responsibility between the Shire and the adjacent landowner. The Shire encourages residents to maintain verges adjacent to their private property. In many cases written Shire approval is required for landowners to either plant or remove vegetation within the verge under the Activities on Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law (2004).

Native vegetation, weeds and fuel loads on verges are frequently raised by residents as concerns given that verges are highly visible to the community, and are critical for safe movement day-to-day traffic and as escape routes in a bushfire.

The Shire's Roadside Conservation Policy adopted in 2017 outlines the Shire's position in relation to retention of native vegetation within its verges. A range of actions are recommended within this Strategy to continue to maintain biodiversity values within road reserves where possible.

Drainage Reserves

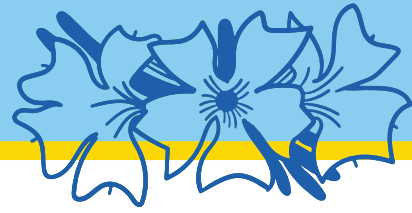
There are 20.6 hectares of drainage reserves, which is a small area relative to other types of reserves that the Shire manages. Drainage reserves can include sections of natural watercourses as well as constructed drains and detention basins. The drainage network is critical in safely managing stormwater runoff, as well as maintaining flows into natural watercourses where possible.

Often creeks and drains traverse other government and private land, making it difficult to ensure consistent management. These corridors, basins and creeklines are critical to maintaining a health ecosystem, and managing flood and other public health matters such as mosquitoes.

Currently, the Shire has a limited budget for improvements to this infrastructure beyond maintaining drainage function; and undertaking sporadic management depending on resident requests, and resource commitments.

Growth and development combined with the compaction of laterite soils has created more water runoff and fundamentally altered water flow. In comparison to the Swan Coastal Plain, where significant effort is directed at reducing nutrient loading and maintaining water quality, the Shire's primary challenges relate to managing water quantity and velocity.

The Challenges Ahead



To address this, the Shire’s draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy (developed concurrently) has identified the potential for the Shire to retrofit existing drainage infrastructure higher in the catchment. Seeking out low-cost retrofit works to manage peak flows, slow runoff to better manage erosion, sedimentation issues is recommended. Identifying opportunities to retain water that corresponds with the wildlife corridor network will be important.

Drainage reserves offer an important opportunity for the Shire to strategically intervene and better manage water resources in a drying climate.

Fragmented Land Management

Connections between nature reserves and other natural areas are essential for movement of wildlife to maintain genetic diversity, adapt to a changing climate, and recolonise after fire. Wildlife corridors do not have to be continuous ribbons of bushland and in a modified landscape, can include a network of smaller stepping stones between larger natural areas.

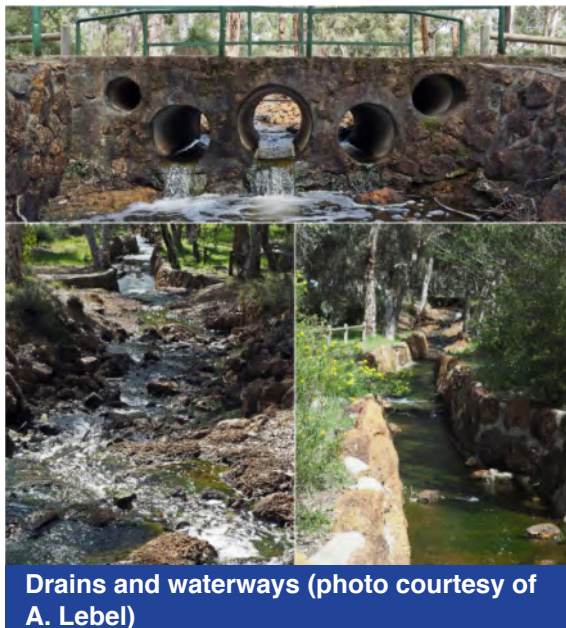
Maintaining populations of native fauna is important to maintain overall ecosystem functions, as they play key roles in pollination, seed dispersal, and movement of fungi that support vegetation health and the breakdown of leaf litter.

Within the Shire, there is a wide variety of land managers, with different approaches, priorities and budgets to vegetation management. By way of example, community concerns have been raised about the approach and method of burning regimes across State agencies. Coming to a common understanding of the most suitable management regime for local vegetation complexes and then achieving a coordinated approach presents a significant challenge.

The Shire only manages 5% of the reserves within the Shire, with the vast majority of reserved land falling under State agency or Water Corporation control.

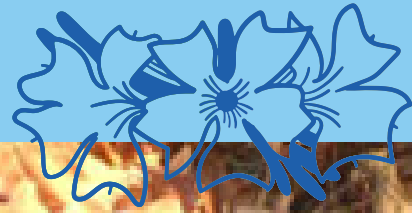
Outside of reserves, an estimated 14% of all the remnant vegetation in the Shire exists on private properties.

Further, 40% percent of the Shire’s watercourses are within or close to areas of freehold ownership. Although there is a level of protection and guidance through the Shire’s planning scheme and environmental controls, it highlights the challenge of coordinating land management practices across the Shire.



Drains and waterways (photo courtesy of A. Lebel)

The Challenges Ahead



Cool burn to reduce surface fuel loads

Fire

Colonisation disrupted traditional owner management practices for the land and forests around Perth which included regular use of fire. Along with logging, weed invasion and reduced numbers of native animals, the loss of traditional burning is thought to have contributed to increased fuel loads and changed forest structure.

The vegetation of the region is adapted to fire. Some plant species need fire (or smoke) for seeds to germinate. However, altered fire regimes can favour weeds and impact on biodiversity through loss of plant species. Different species have different tolerance for fire frequency and intensity and may be advantaged or disadvantaged by fire in different seasons.

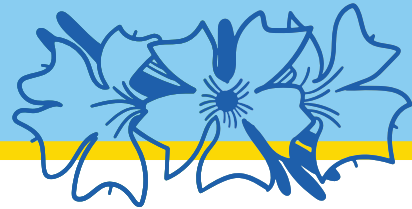
The environment is now different; however the original custodians' invaluable knowledge of native species and fire management should be combined with scientific research findings to inform modern practice. The full range of impacts of different types of fire on soil, air quality and biodiversity is not yet known and requires further research.

Planned burns and fire mitigation works can protect native species and natural areas from the adverse impacts of intense wildfires, as well as protecting human life and property.

There is no single ideal time or way to burn that is optimal for all species, and a patchwork 'fine mosaic' of vegetation at different times since fire provides for a broader range of habitats. Pursuing a mosaic of fuel ages within natural areas enables native animals to take refuge from planned burns, and provides areas of lower fire intensity where they have more chance to survive in the event of wildfire.

Habitat trees and other sensitive environmental features will require additional preparation beforehand, and monitoring to protect them during cool burns. Fire mitigation works and planned burns, coordinated with other landcare work, can contribute significantly to weed control efforts. However, without coordinated weed control there is a risk of weed encroachment after both planned burns and wildfire.

The Challenges Ahead



The Shire's bushfire mitigation efforts focus on community safety, but are undertaken carefully to minimise environmental impacts and draw from traditional burning practices. Using a mixture of permanent firebreaks and temporary mulched tracks to undertake mosaic burning provides for smaller burn cells, and greater opportunity for wildlife to move within larger reserves. Permanent firebreaks that are maintained to a good standard also provide for landcare access and recreational uses including walking and cycling. They also reduce the likelihood of the hurried and destructive bulldozing of large tracks as part of a wildfire response.

Management of Shire reserves is important in its own right, but these can also function as demonstration sites and locations for sharing knowledge with residents and others. Inappropriate fire regimes are recognised nationally as a threat to biodiversity, so improving bushfire mitigation practices on private land can direct residents' efforts to work that has greater bushfire safety results and lower environmental impacts. With a large number of land managers across the landscape, managing bushfire risks consistently is a critical challenge.

The increase in bushfire risk must also influence the way that regeneration and revegetation are pursued. For example, watercourses and wildlife corridors benefit from more continuous vegetation, but all revegetation must now be planned with bushfire risk in mind.

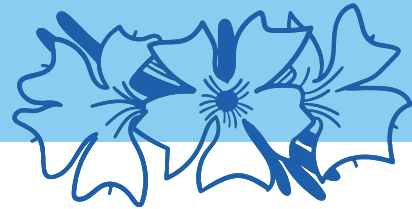
The maintenance and improvement of wildlife corridors must be a compromise between providing strong connections linking natural areas, and protecting those natural areas and the human landscape around them from wildfire. Maps showing the Wildlife Corridor Network are in Appendix 3. A list of local, threatened fauna is in Appendix 4.

Maintaining a balance between bushfire mitigation and biodiversity improvements requires first reducing fuel loads from weeds; then selecting more firewise species and planting densities for replacements. Revegetation of riparian zones around watercourses has additional benefits in slowing stormwater, increasing infiltration, reducing erosion, sedimentation and reducing flood risk downstream.

In some locations continuous corridors are not possible or appropriate and improvements will focus on 'stepping stones' and consider new approaches such as 'Miyawaki forest' patches. Small areas of dense, diverse plantings called Miyawaki forests can grow quickly, absorbing carbon dioxide more rapidly and providing wildlife refuges, but will need to be assessed for bushfire risk implications before being recommended in bushfire prone areas.

Interactions between biodiversity, wildfire, planned fire and other fire mitigation actions are complicated and some of the issues are outlined in Appendix 5.

The Challenges Ahead



Knowledge

This strategy builds upon existing knowledge and information. However, there are many unknowns, and native species that have not been studied to know their habitat requirements or interactions within the ecosystem. Some of the least studied organisms, including fungi, insects and other invertebrates, play critical roles in maintaining pollination and supporting plant and forest health.

As expressed within the Shire's Environmental Sustainability policy, the Shire must remain agile and open to continuous improvement. The strategic outlook must embrace the need for the Shire to participate in research initiatives.

The Shire has opportunities to contribute to filling knowledge gaps in biodiversity and land management, which will lead to adjustments and improvements in practice in response to new information and insights.

An area of particular importance will be emerging science for bushfire risk mitigation and local native species responses to fire.

Most research into fire mitigation has been conducted outside of Western Australia, and it is difficult to reconcile the range of expert opinions into practical local action.

The Shire will continue to monitor research in this area, and test and challenge State requirements that are not necessarily aligned with our specific vegetation complexes.

The Shire is well placed to play an important role in continuing to question, and seek to enhance performance within the bushfire planning industry and relevant stakeholders.

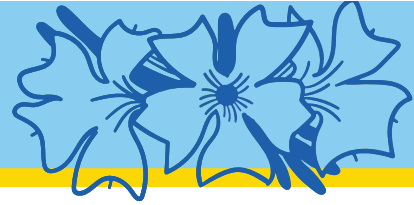
Improving mapping and monitoring of responses to bushfire mitigation and planned burns within Shire managed reserves will also help inform improvements to bushfire and biodiversity advice provided to other land managers.

Future Threats

There are some potentially significant threats on the horizon but not currently present within the Shire. The full impact on biodiversity of the arrival of new pests and diseases is difficult to predict. Some of these potential future threats which require monitoring are noted below.



The Challenges Ahead



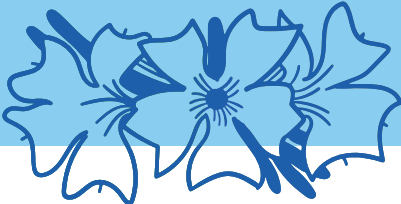
Cane Toads

(Rhinella marina) impact many native species through competition for food and habitat, predation, and poisoning. They have been in Western Australia since 2009 when they entered the Kimberley from the Northern Territory, and are currently estimated to be spreading at around 50km per year. Faster spread is possible through 'hitchhikers' and while the climate within the Perth hills is not currently mapped as suitable for cane toads, the climate is changing and cane toads are proving adaptable in the north of the state. Eradication of small populations would be possible ahead of the main front.



¹Cane toad detection (Australian Museum, 2020) ² Cane Toad courtesy ABC News

The Challenges Ahead



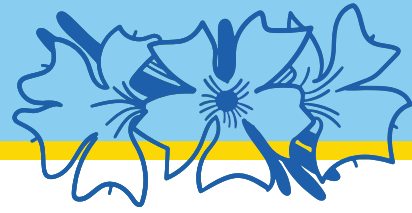
Herbicide resistant weeds may emerge from agricultural regions. These may also include genetically modified crops (such as canola) which have been developed to be resistant to particular herbicides. Weeds resistant to one herbicide will usually still be susceptible to other herbicides, although multiple herbicide resistance can occur. Demand from the agricultural sector can be expected to support the development of alternative products and approaches if significant herbicide resistant weeds develop.

Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is a fungus from South America, where the native Myrtaceae species have evolved a natural resistance to it. It spreads by tiny yellow spores and attacks the leaves, stems and flowers of susceptible plants (including Eucalypts), affecting seed production. Since 2010 it has infected forests in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, the Northern Territory, Tasmania. It has been detected within the Kimberley in 2022 and has potential to devastate many ecosystems by preventing seed production if it spreads within southwest Western Australia. Myrtle rust can be controlled in garden or horticultural settings using chemicals, but chemical control is not a viable option across large areas including native forests.



Myrtle rust fungus affects plants from the Myrtaceae family, including leaves, stems and shoots (DPIRD).

The Challenges Ahead

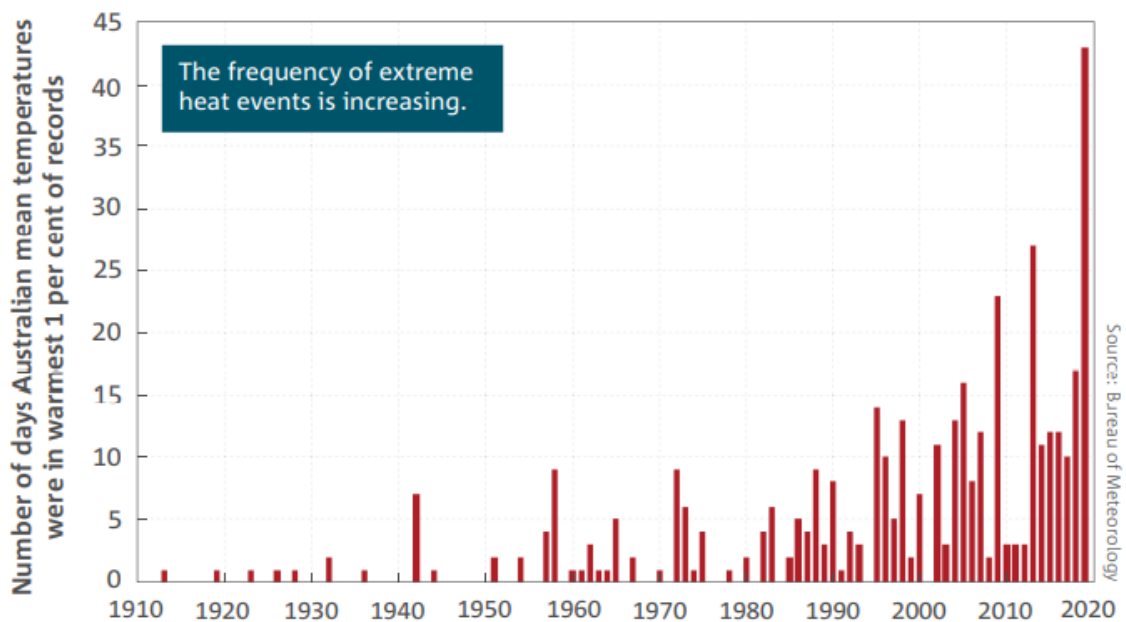


Climate Change

The most wide-ranging threat is climate disruption from global warming, caused by increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. While the climate has changed in the past, the current rate of change has been accelerated by the burning of fossil fuels, and is faster than many plants and animals will be able to move or adapt. Climate change will also have a multiplier effect, increasing the negative impacts of other threatening processes and particularly in this region, fire.

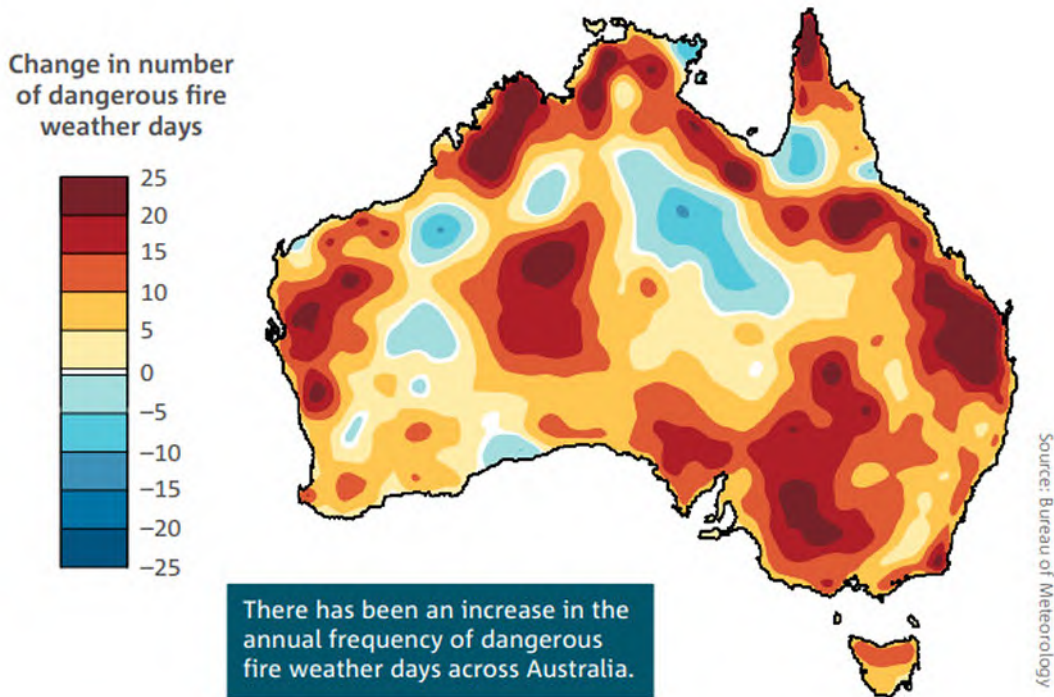
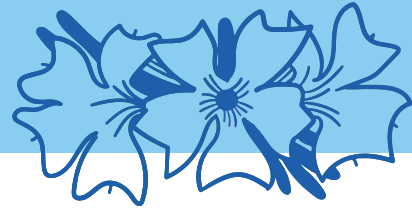
The full extent of climate change experienced over the next century will depend on action to reduce the production of greenhouse gases and absorb carbon dioxide. (Shire actions to reduce emissions are the focus of a separate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy.) Past emissions have already ‘locked in’ additional warming for the next few decades. The frequency of hot days, heatwaves, and dangerous bushfire weather have all been increasing and expected to continue.

CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology produce regular ‘State of the Climate’ reports, summarising what has been observed and what is expected for Australia. The images below are from the 2020 report:



Number of days each year where the Australian area-averaged daily mean temperature for each month is extreme. Extreme daily mean temperatures are the warmest 1 per cent of days for each month, calculated for the period from 1910 to 2019.

The Challenges Ahead

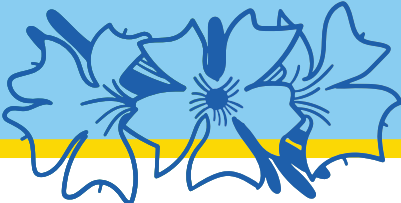


There has been an increase in the number of days with dangerous weather conditions for bushfires. This is based on the change in the annual (July to June) number of days between the two periods: July 1950 – June 1985 and July 1985 – June 2020 that the Forest Fire Danger Index exceeds its 90th percentile, which is an indicator of dangerous fire weather conditions for a given location.

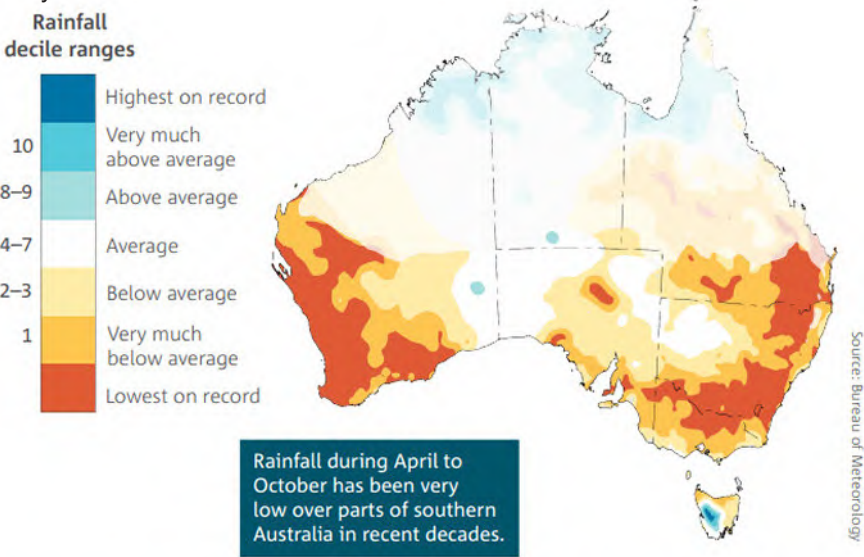
The broad trends observed in the south-west of Western Australia are higher annual temperatures, longer bushfire seasons and disrupted rainfall patterns, including both periods of drought and the likelihood of lower annual rainfall but more frequent flooding events.

The range of impacts on the natural environment from those changes include pressure on vulnerable species particularly during drought and heatwaves, erosion issues along watercourses, reduction in permanent water bodies, and general destruction from more intense bushfires (including loss of the soil seed bank).

The Challenges Ahead



Drier conditions combined with the increasing frequency of dangerous fire weather make it more likely that wildfires will spread quickly. Although there is less rainfall overall, more of it is falling in storms. Where there is significant rain and flooding following a bushfire (such as the Woorloo Fire) this can ‘compound’ or multiply the impacts of both, resulting in increased loss of topsoil and biodiversity.



April to October rainfall deciles for the last 20 years (2000–19). A decile map shows where rainfall is above average, average or below average for the recent period, in comparison with the entire rainfall record from 1900. Areas across northern and central Australia that receive less than 40 per cent of their annual rainfall during April to October are faded.

The United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has identified the Northern Jarrah Forest as one of the Australian ecosystems most at risk due to climate change. There is a significant risk of areas of ecosystem ‘transition’ or ‘collapse’ as a result of mass tree deaths in a hotter and drier climate.

Some species and ecosystems may prove more resilient than others. Where there are signs of ecosystem failure, more active intervention may be required, either to attempt to regenerate the previous ecosystem or to take a stewardship approach to development of a novel ecosystem based on the changed climatic conditions. Cost effective and broad-scale vegetation health monitoring would be an important asset to detecting and responding to climate change pressures.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation ‘Climate Science Initiative’ is undertaking detailed modelling for Western Australia and is expected to deliver regional climate projections in 2024. Some actions and priorities identified within this strategy may need to be revisited at that stage, or in the next scheduled review. It is hoped that much more guidance will become available from State Government agencies in the next decade, to assist all landowners and managers with locally appropriate adaptation.

Local Environmental Threats



In relation to locally specific and relevant environmental challenges, the threats faced by our native species and ecosystems are varied and significant. These include land clearing, dieback, invasive weeds, introduced predators, and climate change reducing local streamflow and increasing bushfire risks.

The stability of natural ecosystems including our jarrah forests depends on many species. The loss of particular species, such as specialised native pollinators, can cause additional losses from species that depended on them. Targeted actions will be required to address local threats, minimise local extinctions and reduce the risk of ecological collapse.

Dieback and Disease

Phytophthora Dieback is a root rotting plant disease, caused by introduced water moulds such as *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. A water mould is similar to a fungus and it lives in soil and plant tissue. After it attacks the roots, many plants will quickly die off as they are unable to take up water and nutrients. While other plant diseases such as marri canker can also impact forest health, dieback is considered the most serious since it affects so many different plant species.

Once plants and soil are infected the disease can be treated but not cured. Without treatment, susceptible plants (nearly half of local plant species) will die and the ecological and habitat values of the area will be permanently reduced, which is why dieback is called the 'biological bulldozer'. More information on dieback impacts and management is included in Appendix 6.

Some plant species or individual plants are much more resistant than others and can survive in dieback infested areas. Shire reserves are part of a research project to test plant species dieback susceptibility in the Perth hills. Environmental science PhD students have been working on a multi year study to recommend species and methods to rehabilitate dieback affected areas.



Loss of habitat in dieback affected jarrah forest (right) compared to dieback free forest (left)

Local Environmental Threats



Clearing

Loss of native vegetation and reduced connections between natural areas removes habitat for wildlife and limits their ability to move and reproduce. This fragmentation can also reduce pollination of plants, resulting in a slow decline in plant diversity.

The most common reason for clearing is for development at varying scales – for subdivision, for building a house, or adding pools, sheds and carports.

Clearing of native vegetation may require local, state or federal approval depending on the scale and location. The *Environmental Protection Act 1986* is the primary legislation protecting native vegetation in WA. Clearing permits are required from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, unless specific listed exemption applies.

There are specific listed exemptions from requiring a state clearing permit and most clearing is not at a scale that requires federal approval.

There are notable exceptions including habitat for listed threatened or endangered species, such as black-cockatoo species.

Significant clearing can occur where subdivision and development is approved by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). Shire Planning and Environmental Officers review proposals and seek to influence the WAPC decision by providing recommendations and requesting conditions to prevent or minimise environmental impacts.

For existing private properties, the vegetation protection provisions within the local planning framework provide for Shire planning and environmental staff to review proposed development including clearing and reduce the impacts where possible.

While less vegetation can typically be retained within Residential zoned properties, important environmental features including habitat trees and riparian vegetation along watercourses are protected where possible.

Clearing is an important contributing factor for erosion and sedimentation of watercourses, which is magnified by the increased discharge of stormwater from buildings and paved or hardstand areas. Protection of existing vegetation along watercourses is the most effective option but where revegetation is required, this should mimic the natural form and structure of riparian vegetation to maximise biodiversity benefits.

Much more fuel reduction and vegetation clearing is now required around new houses, to meet bushfire guidelines and achieve an acceptable bushfire attack level (BAL), than was the case in past decades. Owners of houses built before December 2015 when current BAL requirements came into effect are also permitted to clear more of their Asset Protection Zones (APZ) according to the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner's Standards.

It is possible that the State Government may further expand exemptions from clearing permits and local government planning approval in bushfire prone areas in the future, particularly within Asset Protection Zones.

While most people will agree on the need for fire mitigation actions, there are a wide range of views about what is effective and necessary. Excessive clearing or too-frequent burning can encourage weed growth and have negative environmental outcomes without improving bushfire safety.

Local Environmental Threats



Illegal Logging

The removal of vegetation from Shire land, dead or alive, is prohibited under Shire of Mundaring Local Property Law and the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Illegal logging for firewood collection is an ongoing issue that affects Shire conservation reserves, National Parks, regional nature reserves, and water catchment areas.

Illegal logging has an immediate environmental impact through the removal of habitat, but also unregulated access can spread dieback or other plant diseases and result in longer-term loss of biodiversity.

Anecdotal advice from Shire staff in the field is that most of this activity occurs on land managed by agencies other than the Shire, and appears to be driven by collection of firewood to sell, rather than for household heating or timber products. Unauthorised logging is a state-wide issue requiring a coordinated approach across multiple State Agencies.

Investigating unauthorised logging faces many challenges across different land tenures. Shire attempts to engage and encourage greater State intervention and compliance/enforcement has not been effective.

The frequency of patrolling reserves and/or surveillance needs to be increased and on a larger scale to catch unlawful clearing offences.

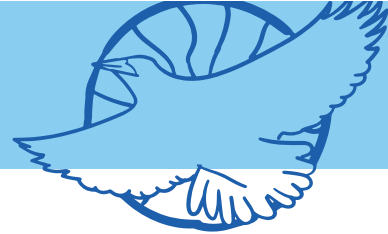
State agencies do not appear to be coordinated or adequately resourced to act on illegal logging offences. With the prospect of previously unallocated crown land transferring to control by Aboriginal Corporations, there is the potential for improvements to management in this regard.

In 2021 the State Government announced that south-west native forests are to be protected from commercial logging from 2023. However, damage from illegal logging will continue unless agencies have the on ground resources to investigate and collaborate with local government and other land managers to prosecute offences.

There are also opportunities for the State to take coordinated action to reduce the demand for illegally harvested firewood, by increasing options for legal firewood collection. There may be locations where regrowth from past logging has resulted in a much higher tree density than in old growth forests, and selective harvesting could potentially address forest structure and fire risk, at the same time as providing an alternative to illegally collected firewood.

Early consultation documents for the 2024-2033 Forest Management Plan released by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions provide an overview on ecological thinning in the south-west forest.

Local Environmental Threats



Ecological thinning is the partial reduction of overstorey stand density to improve ecological values in a forest. The benefits of carefully implemented strategic thinning can include improved forest health, with more resilient forests not under stress and competition for water.

This type of active forest management can also address bushfire risk. Thinning can promote growth of the remaining trees, better mimicking the form of old growth forests, and increasing fire resilience by reducing the potential for crown fires in heavily stocked regrowth stands. This can also enable lower intensity planned burns with reduced risk of tree death and damage.

The Shire can advocate for the State to develop detailed plans and set limits for ecological thinning in timber reserves. These should address how much vegetation can be removed, how often and where thinning would be most effective to achieve the best results. Only regrowth from past logging should be considered for thinning, to ensure habitat trees are undisturbed, and areas considered protectable from dieback should be excluded.

The Shire can also advocate for actions that reduce the demand for firewood altogether (such as incentivising or subsidising conversions to efficient electric heating), which would provide a more permanent solution to illegal firewood harvesting, and also have air quality benefits in the cooler months.

Weeds

Weeds are introduced plants that affect bushfire fuel loads and amenity as well as negative impacts on the natural environment. Weed control is a shared responsibility across all land owners and managers.

Within nature reserves the Shire generally follows the 'Bradley method' of bush regeneration. This prioritises work in the areas that are in the most natural, undisturbed state, to maintain high conservation values.

It is impossible to eradicate all weed species. Shire resources and weed control efforts must be directed to weeds that have worse impacts (such as rapid spreading, or increased bushfire risk). The Shire has developed a Priority Weeds List, informed by declared Weeds of National Significance, Declared Plants in WA, Swan Region invasiveness ratings, and the local knowledge and experience of Shire staff. The Priority Weeds list is included in Appendix 7.

Shire staff in the Community Safety and Emergency Management Service undertake weed control as part of reducing bushfire hazard within Shire reserves. Their efforts are focussed on weed species that can contribute significantly to bushfire fuel loads, rather than environmental or aesthetic weed issues. Their efforts are also focussed on the reserves, or parts of reserves, that are closest to residential areas. Controlled burns can contribute to weed control within natural areas, and provide an opportunity to target emergent weeds in the year after fire.

Rapid weed growth is a known problem after both wildfires and controlled burns, and can add to subsequent fuel loads if not managed.

There is often financial assistance from the State Government for bushfire recovery but the funding terms may prevent effort to control weed growth, if this is seen only as an environmental issue. Weed growth after fire is also a future fire risk and can be a cause of stress for fire affected residents, in addition to impacts on biodiversity.

Local Environmental Threats



Introduced Animals

Livestock, domestic pets and feral animals all put pressure on local native species.

The direct impacts of feral predators such as cats and foxes are well known but other introduced animals can also have impacts via eating or trampling important native vegetation, competing for nest hollows and habitat, or spreading parasites and disease.

Livestock

The keeping of livestock, such as horses, sheep, cows, goats and alpaca, is a common land use for many rural lifestyle and general agriculture properties that have been historically cleared of native vegetation.

Livestock can put pressure on local native species through their impacts on the land and vegetation. The intention of the current planning controls is to manage and promote the sustainable keeping of stock on land within the Shire, in a way that preserves and enhances the rural lifestyle and amenity of the area and protects environmental assets.

The Shire's Keeping of Stock guidelines are used to assess stock management, stocking rates, pasture cover and exclusion of stock from native bushland areas and watercourses.

Overgrazing and trampling from stock causes land degradation, erosion of topsoil and loss of habitat for native animals. Many rural lifestyle properties rely on groundwater bores to irrigate their pasture in the drier seasons and to maximise the number of stock they can have on their property, however this approach needs to be reconsidered when keeping in mind the drying climate and reduction in rainfall. It is vital that we promote responsible and sustainable stock management into the future.

Pest and Feral Animals

There are a range of feral animals within the shire, and generally poor information about their numbers and location. There are efforts to remove feral pigs from state managed lands. Feral deer are an established and serious feral pest in some parts of Australia but currently occur within the shire in low numbers.

Cats are instinctive hunters that have contributed to the extinction and decline of many native animals. Both domestic and feral cats threaten the survival of small birds, mammals and reptiles. Even well-fed pet cats will hunt and kill wildlife if they have access to natural areas.

Care and control of domestic cats is the responsibility of cat owners. Trapping and removal of feral cats is undertaken by the Shire's Community Safety and Emergency Management Service.

The Shire of Mundaring Keeping of Cats Local Law is limited in scope to the matters permitted by the state *Cat Act 2011*, which currently does not permit local laws to require cats to be contained within the owner's property.

Local Environmental Threats



Fox with prey, Glen Forrest

Foxes can have a large hunting territory that includes many native animals, supplemented by domestic poultry and pet food.

Information on the fox population within the Perth Hills is very limited and fox control can be difficult to undertake, however it is critical to ensure the survival of native species within natural areas.

Conservation areas with feral animal exclusion fencing have demonstrated the benefits for fauna recovery. However, this fencing is costly and would be very difficult to install and maintain within Shire managed conservation reserves, which also allow for recreational use and access.

While conservation organisations can maintain dedicated on site staff (including ecologists) for wildlife sanctuaries such as Karakamia, the Shire has a small number of staff managing a large number of reserves. There is also a risk of the fencing becoming a barrier to wildlife escaping a wildfire and therefore no feral animal exclusion fencing is recommended for reserves managed by the Shire.

Poison and Pollution

Careless use and storage of chemicals can result in pollution of soil, groundwater or watercourses.

Chemical spills can also occur from road accidents during transport and enter the drainage system, leading to watercourses downstream. This can cause water quality issues and cause poisoning of wildlife.

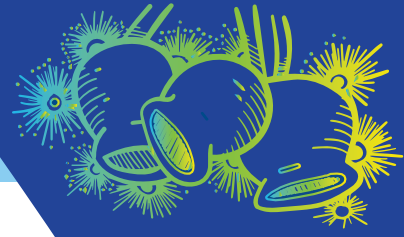
One more direct source of poisoning is through use of baits and particularly, rodenticides. Any baits or poisons have a risk of being eaten by native animals if not managed carefully.

Many poisons that are available at retail outlets for rodent control have an additional risk of 'secondary poisoning', which occurs when owls, birds of prey or other native animals eat poisoned rats and mice.

The most harmful poisons are slow acting, Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs). Rodents can eat multiple baits before dying, then native predators can eat the more heavily poisoned rodents. Some insecticides can also result in secondary poisoning.

Air pollution can also impact on native plants and animals but local governments have an extremely limited role in monitoring or protecting air quality. This is the jurisdiction of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the shire will primarily pass concerns about pollution to the appropriate agency for investigation.

Rising to the Challenge



Retaining at least 30% of the original (pre-colonisation) extent of each ecological community is recommended to prevent an exponential loss of local species and risk of ecosystem failures. Many local government areas within the south-west of Western Australia have already crossed these thresholds in terms of keeping enough of each vegetation complex, used as a proxy for ecosystem diversity. Shire of Mundaring is unique within the Perth Metropolitan Region in its opportunities to retain biodiversity for future generations to enjoy.

In addition to the Shire's natural assets, the community already places a high value on the natural environment. While there may be substantial landowner succession ahead, as long term residents can no longer safely manage their long held properties and downsize, new residents are also likely to choose to live in the shire for its natural beauty and opportunities to be close to nature.

While the threats facing our native species are serious, there are many opportunities to help them survive. New scientific research about our native species, better mapping and monitoring technology, and national carbon sequestration and biodiversity certification programs will all provide significant opportunities to improve conservation outcomes.

Vision

Community members from the Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee helped develop a long term vision for biodiversity within the Shire of Mundaring:

Biodiversity and natural areas are protected, connected and cared for through community stewardship and a strong culture of conservation.

The Shire has a significant role to play but cannot achieve this vision alone. To work towards it, Shire staff must seek collaborative partnerships, empower environmental volunteers, and support landowner conservation efforts.

Key principles have been identified that will guide efforts to protect and care for our natural heritage, and inform actions by Shire staff over the coming decade.

Rising to the Challenge



Group activities and enjoyment of the outdoors creates social harmony and a sense of wellbeing

Principles

Celebrate Nature

Caring for nature grows from understanding and connecting with nature. Shire residents should have a range of opportunities to learn about and celebrate their connections to nature. This will help foster a shared sense of custodianship of the natural environment and promote a culture that supports biodiversity conservation.

There is a significant body of research demonstrating the benefits of access to nature for individual health and wellbeing, beyond the benefits of exercise in more modified or artificial public spaces.

Childhood experiences in nature help to develop understanding of local biodiversity and connections to the natural world. Paths, trails and nature play areas allow for engagement with nature and can contribute to both physical and mental health.

Environmental art can generate individual and collective emotions that strengthen appreciation and connection to our natural

heritage. Improving the visibility of our landscapes and native species within public art such as murals, or the Shire's art collection, will help promote knowledge and a culture of custodianship.

Celebrating nature will include:

- Developing or participating in citizen science opportunities to help fill gaps in knowledge of our natural environment
- Expanding free Shire online material and publications to include more information about native animals;
- Maintaining partnerships to deliver environmental education opportunities, such as Environmental Art Project with Mundaring Arts Centre;
- Encouraging or developing public artwork celebrating local native plants, animals and cultural heritage; and
- Managing Lake Leschenaultia for a balance of recreation and conservation use, with enhanced environmental education opportunities around the Lake.

Rising to the Challenge



Expand and Support Volunteer Network

One of the Shire's great strengths is the extensive and dedicated network of environmental volunteers that undertake bushland conservation and environmental management activities within the Shire's natural areas. The Shire has many volunteers in Friends Groups and broader Catchment Groups that undertake bushcare activities in reserves.

The role of a Friends Group is to help safely maintain and enhance the environmental values of bushland areas. Friends Group volunteers collectively have made a significant difference to our environment over the years, and Shire of Mundaring is committed and proud to support our Friends Groups with access to support, training, expert advice and assistance by contractors and the Shire Landcare team.

Friends Groups / Catchment Groups can also be eligible for assistance or grant funding opportunities that the Shire alone cannot access.

Through the compilation and review of the Friends Group Manual, Shire of Mundaring continues to assist and improve outcomes for our environment.

Volunteers and the grants obtained in collaboration with volunteer groups represent 48% of the spending on nature reserves within the Shire. Environmental volunteers are therefore critical to the Shire tackling the challenges ahead.

Rising to the Challenge



Some relevant observations about volunteering trends and the Shire's current approach to Friends Groups include:

- 19% decrease recorded in people doing voluntary work in Australia from 2016 to 2021. In Shire of Mundaring the decrease was around 11%;
- Friends Groups have a long history since 1989 (33 years) and not all works completed have been recorded / collated and there is likely a wealth of local knowledge to be shared;
- The majority of members are in their 60's or above, with some younger members.
- Of the 70 registered Friends Groups in the shire, only 8 Friends Groups and one Catchment Group have received funding over the last 5 years to complete work in Shire reserves;
- Grants have been sought where volunteers are active. This does not always correlate with the location the Shire's highest priority reserves.
 - Black Cockatoo Reserves (Priority 7) – Funding sought for dieback treatment. This is the best example of funding being sought in a high priority reserve.
 - Falls Road Reserve (Priority 8) – Funding sought for minimal work in reserve. Most funding is being spent on upstream private land adjoining the reserve.
 - Boya Trail – Southern Railway Heritage Trail – Boya to Mundaring (Priority 20) – Funding is utilised on the adjoining DBCA land, rather than along the trail itself.
 - Other grants are not for reserves listed in the priority reserves report.
- Most of the top 10 priority reserves do have a registered Friends Group but with varying numbers of volunteers and levels of activity.

It is clear that we need to foster and nurture a strong volunteer network to tackle the scale of the environmental management tasks across the shire. Friends Groups also provide important opportunities to share and develop landcare skills that can be applied to natural areas on private properties.

Rising to the Challenge



Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Recent changes to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* have increased the potential penalties to staff and volunteer coordinators if an injury occurs. Providing a safe workplace continues to be a high priority of the Shire, and this extends to the safety of volunteers working in reserves.

The Shire will continue to update its Friends Group Manual to help:

- reduce risk to volunteers by restricting the use of mechanical equipment and weed control chemicals
- improve safety procedures; and
- provide updated information regarding fire management, grants and Aboriginal Heritage.

Further professional and pragmatic risk management advice would be beneficial in informing a volunteer model moving forward.

Survey results and staff observations confirm there are often unregistered contributors, who may not be covered by Shire insurance for volunteers. As well as volunteer coordinators being exposed to significant work safe risks in these instances, the removal and or planting of vegetation within reserves without permission (or without being a registered Friends Group member) could technically represent a breach of the Shire's Property Local Law.

There is more "generosity of time and spirit" from the volunteers than there are staff to monitor its application, which is a good problem to have. Given the significant contributions volunteers make, supporting volunteers and guiding and assisting them to safely undertake appropriate works is important.



Rising to the Challenge



Friends Groups have and will continue to work in their own time, at their own pace. However, in the interests of all parties, Shire must ensure all volunteers are registered and work plans are prepared; for their own continued safety, to reduce exposure to workplace safety issues, and to ensure the Shire and volunteers coordinate effort to best effect.

Every reserve is different and requires different treatment. To protect life and property from bushfire events as well as maintain biodiversity, Friends Groups and the Shire must also pursue 'balanced' outcomes. Engagement with Friends Groups will be guided by and continue to respect the wealth of local knowledge volunteers can share about their reserve.

The Shire has limited resources and does not have enough staff to comprehensively manage all nature reserves. The Friends Groups continue to provide significant support to maintain the environmental values of nature reserves. However it is also acknowledged that, due to broader social changes, there is a need to adapt and provide different opportunities for more options for volunteers to contribute. Friends Group members have often raised difficulty of recruiting new volunteers and aging of existing volunteers as issues of concern to their group.

Exploring new innovative programs and ways to engage and genuinely empower volunteers will be critical moving forward. Existing and potential volunteers should also be afforded an opportunity to inform and define their own role in relation to volunteering. New groups should also be encouraged to form around high priority nature reserves.

A range of low cost, low risk trials could be undertaken to test ideas to attract new volunteers. The trials could be monitored and feedback and improvement suggestions requested from attendees. Time should be afforded to a trial period for two years to allow sufficient community participation and feedback. This investment should help inform the Shire's longer-term approach, which may require an increase in budgets for reserve management staff or contractors if trials to recruit more volunteers are unsuccessful.

While the numbers of volunteers will fluctuate over time, the Shire will continue supporting and collaborating with Friends Groups. An important component to improving coordination will be seeking to improve mapping, planning and communication for reserves through more formalised Fire and Environmental Work Plans.



Rising to the Challenge



Enhance Reserve Management and Coordination

An opportunity exists to use the Shire's Geographic Information System (GIS) as a spatial information hub to coordinate and record observations and activities by various stakeholders.

Where management plans have been prepared these should also be noted and linked within the GIS. More technical capacity is required moving forward. It is not feasible to prepare comprehensive management plans for all nature reserves managed by the Shire. It is recommended that management plans should be prepared or updated for the ten highest priority nature reserves, based on a 2018 ecological assessment of over 50 nature reserves (nearly 900 hectares). While Lake Leschenaultia was not included in that 2018 assessment due to its separate management as a tourism and recreational site, it should obviously be included in that list for its ecological values, as well as its social and recreational significance.

The ten reserves recommended to have management plans prepared are:

- Lake Leschenaultia, Chidlow (Res. 23165)
- Alps Street Reserve, Mount Helena (Res. 34103)
- Strettle Road Reserve (Res. 32727)
- Pindalup Reserve, Wooroloo (Res. 39853)
- Superblock Reserve, Glen Forrest (Res. 50018)
- North Darlington Reserves, including Nan Macmillan (Res. 6922)
- Black Cockatoo Reserves, Mundaring (Res. 20990 & 12422)
- Falls Road Reserve, Hovea (Res. 12453)

- Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea/ Parkerville (Res. 14163)
- Callan Road Reserve, Hovea (Res. 38224)

Due to its environmental values, high visitation and bushfire risk, Lake Leschenaultia will require a more comprehensive plan to protect the Lake itself and its natural surroundings while allowing for safe and appropriate recreational uses.

However, other nature reserves containing more than two hectares of native vegetation are also recommended to have shorter, more action based Fire and Environmental Work Plans prepared to better coordinate effort between the Emergency Management, Parks Teams, and Friends Groups. Priority for preparation of these Plans will be reserves with registered Friends Groups where bushfire mitigation works are planned soon.

A Fire and Environmental Work Plan may be used as an interim plan, to inform preparation of a full management plan when possible.

Rising to the Challenge



Plans will be reserves with registered Friends Groups where bushfire mitigation works are planned soon. A Fire and Environmental Work Plan may be used as an interim plan, to inform preparation of a full management plan when possible.

Currently the Shire does not have resources to prepare management plans in-house. A business case is recommended for external consultants to prepare a management plan for Lake Leschenaultia. For other reserves, a business case is recommended to employ additional staff to map and monitor the condition of nature reserves, develop and implement plans, and coordinate weed control efforts and conservation activities with bushfire mitigation actions.

The most significant and reliable external funding for nature reserve management is from the DFES Mitigation Action Fund. Investments in weed control to address bushfire fuel loads have biodiversity and community co-benefits, but not all weeds will be eligible for treatment under MAF. Coordination of fire mitigation works with Parks staff and Friends Group effort will achieve greater results across the range of priority weed species. Targeted training and engagement in research efforts would assist by enhancing the environmental science knowledge base of staff involved in reserve management.

Some fire mitigation works, including firebreak installation and planned burns, have potential to conflict with volunteer efforts. Improving monitoring of environmental values following planned burns will help to continuously improve Shire fire mitigation work on reserves, but also inform better advice from the Fire and Environmental staff to landowners managing the much larger sum of natural areas.

Where there is potential for conflicting advice to be provided on biodiversity conservation efforts and bushfire safety requirements, it is important that a coordinated approach with consistent advice is developed and delivered to residents.

Given that management for bushfire risk is likely to be the primary driver for management of local natural areas across all land managers, integrating biodiversity conservation with fire mitigation is one of the most significant directions of this Local Biodiversity Strategy. However, this requires intensive, ongoing environmental staff involvement with the planning and implementation of fire mitigation works and advice to residents both generally and on a property by property basis. To achieve this there are options to locate additional environmental staff in different service areas (Parks; Planning & Environment; Emergency Management).

These would be developed in more detail in the forthcoming business case but it is anticipated that the most effective arrangement may be a fire ecologist or environmental fire officer, embedded within the Emergency Management team, to help shape both Shire fire mitigation actions within reserves and broader community practices on private land. The opportunity for Indigenous Ranger or Fire Management trainees should also be explored.

Over time, a reserve rationalisation initiative could identify reserves with low social and ecological values that may be more suited to alternative uses. In most cases the reserves are Crown land and the sale or lease of land by the State does not generate any income for the Shire. However, a reduction in the total number of reserves would enable the Shire's staff and resources to be focussed on more significant areas for greater community benefit.

Rising to the Challenge



Support Conservation on Private Land

Private landowners manage far more land and natural areas in total than the Shire. The long term viability of conservation reserves also depends on the retention and management of natural areas on the land around them.

While revegetated areas can eventually develop into important habitat, retaining existing natural areas it is far more effective and will conserve a wider range of species. Protections for local natural areas were embedded into the Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 based on the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009, and will continue under the new Strategy.

Protection through the planning framework can prevent inappropriate clearing, but usually cannot mandate active care or mandate ongoing management to tackle threatening processes.

Support for landowners to undertake active management and enhance biodiversity can include general information, tailored advice, and opportunities to participate in local or regional projects.

Some direct assistance may be available for certain initiatives (particularly where grant funding has been obtained) for landowners who are custodians of important habitat and watercourses. In many cases the first step will be improving the information available to landholders. This can be supported by semi-automated reports about the potential environmental values, but mapping is a tool that needs to be complemented by site visits to more accurately understand and communicate biodiversity values.

The Shire's innovative Environmental Asset Inspections service was developed to help landowners achieve more balanced bushfire and environmental outcomes through early intervention, often meeting landowners and bushfire consultants on site before plans have been drawn up. The initiative was recognised in 2018-2019 at a State and National level as best practice. Importantly, the service was only possible through reallocation of Environmental Officer time earlier into the development process and a partial offset of costs through a minor fee for the service.

The Environmental Asset Inspections have generally only been suggested to landowners seeking to build or subdivide on land containing mapped Local Natural Areas (LNA). Environmental Officer time is limited and effort has been prioritised towards landowners who are actively pursuing development, where there is a risk of environmental damage. However, the service is valued and positive feedback has received such as:

A) I am more than happy to provide feedback on the EAI service and advise which the Shire has provided to date.

As never having undertaken this type of project before I have been very grateful for the Shire's willingness to explain and advise regarding the different aspects and processes. In addition the cooperation with the site visit with all parties was exceptionally beneficial to all. For your information the planning consultant and the bushfire planning consultant both commented on how well it was articulated. Many thanks.

Rising to the Challenge



Shire Staff can map and mark habitat trees for retention during site visits

B) ...The inspection was a very positive experience, with our own knowledge being much expanded by the detailed (and impressive) knowledge that you brought to bear on our piece of land.

We were also very struck by the speed with which you grasped the details of the block layout, potential plans for the site and the issues involved. We have recommended the process to others in our area. It was also very heartening to find how well our values and those of the Shire aligned, the preservation of the unique features of local natural wildlife and the enhancement of local fire safety measures.

A modified version of the Environmental Asset Inspection service should be developed which provides landowners with a basic map of natural features, to support conservation initiatives rather than development. The map and planned revegetation or other works would also need to have regard to fire safety and careful fuel load management.

This service can also link landowners to other support including the ReWild initiative from Perth NRM and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 'Land for Wildlife' program.

It should be noted that the Land for Wildlife program has an online presence and maintains advisory material, but does not currently have adequate staff and resources to provide for site visits, advice or assistance to residents.

The Shire can advocate for increased funding to improve this important conservation initiative. In addition the Shire can seek to develop or adapt local 'Land for Wildlife' material to encourage residents to undertake active management to maintain biodiversity.

New resources may become available through national or state initiatives to sequester carbon through revegetation. While it is possible that initiatives on local government managed land may be eligible for support, the greatest opportunity is likely to be for larger landholders - particularly in agricultural zones (including areas affected by salinity).

The Shire can play a key role in collating and sharing accurate information about biodiversity certificates and carbon credit programs with potential participants.

While conservation efforts on larger landholdings can have greater impact on biodiversity at the landscape scale, every resident has some opportunity to support biodiversity conservation.

Landscaping features and gardens of all sizes within the urban landscape also have an important role to play in the sustainability of biodiversity. Native gardens and verges can contribute important food sources, water and shelter for pollinators and wildlife, and can increase the viability of nearby local natural areas through reduced weed invasion.

Rising to the Challenge



Strengthen Wildlife Corridor Network

Watercourses are important environmental features, linked strongly to the community's sense of place and wellbeing. They have multiple functions including important recreational areas, historical, spiritual and cultural values, and supporting native flora and fauna populations.

The Shire's original Wildlife Corridor Strategy approach in 2000 adapted State Government watercourse mapping, to designate all watercourses within the Shire as wildlife corridors.

Using watercourses as wildlife corridors has merit due to importance of water availability and riparian habitat for many species, and the increased protection of vegetation along watercourses through the planning system.

However, designation of all watercourses as wildlife corridors meant that highly modified drainage systems in urban areas were also included, and no terrestrial corridors were identified through native vegetation separate to watercourses.

In 2004 the Perth Biodiversity Project (hosted by the Western Australian Local Government Association) mapped Regional Ecological Linkages across the Perth Metropolitan Region.

These Regional Ecological Linkages are 500m wide and aim to connect regionally significant natural areas, such as national and regional parks, including local nature reserves and other remnant vegetation as stepping stones. The aim was to maintain the ecological viability of those regionally significant natural areas by maintaining landscape level connections between them, allowing for the continued movement of wildlife, which also allows for pollination and seed dispersal to maintain plant biodiversity.

The process used to identify the Regional Ecological Linkages deliberately targeted connections following more secure areas of native vegetation, including reserves. Location within a Regional Ecological Linkage informed the prioritisation of Local Natural Areas for protection in the Shire's 2009 Local Biodiversity Strategy, which was then given effect through the update of the Local Planning Strategy and gazettal of Local Planning Scheme No. 4 in 2014.

In 2021, staff of the Western Australian Local Government Association advised that the Regional Ecological Linkages had been reviewed, were still considered current, and not proposed to be updated. Subsequent review by Shire staff has confirmed that these Linkages are well located and still valid, and should be considered as wildlife corridors under the revised Local Biodiversity Strategy. However there was a need for additional, local level wildlife corridors to form a 'web' of finer scale connections between the Shire's significant local reserves and regionally significant natural areas.

In 2021 consultants were engaged by the Shire to review available spatial datasets and methodologies and produce updated local wildlife corridor mapping. A hybrid model was devised, which included the higher order watercourses produced during development of the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy as well as connections between high priority local nature reserves and regional ecological linkages. The Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy has been prepared concurrently by the Shire with a focus on identifying stormwater management and development standards based on watercourse characteristics. The wildlife corridor mapping and more information about the process are included in Appendix 3.

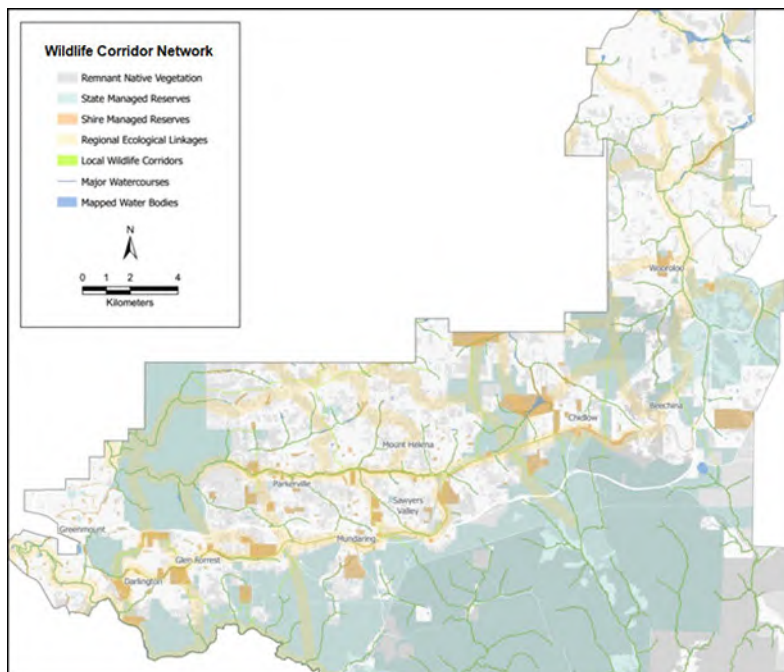
Rising to the Challenge



It must be emphasised that there are important habitats and areas of wildlife movement that are outside of the Regional Ecological Linkages and mapped local wildlife corridors. Any remaining natural area within the Shire will be, in some way, part of a wildlife movement network. An aim of both the Linkages and local corridors is to prioritise effort and resource allocation to specific areas that have greater potential to influence the viability of surrounding natural areas and maintain landscape connections and biodiversity long term.

The term ‘wildlife corridor network’ within this strategy refers to the network of Regional Ecological Linkages and local wildlife corridors. Strengthening the wildlife corridor network will include:

- Developing new initiatives to manage introduced pests and increase habitat values within or adjacent to mapped corridors;
- Where appropriate, targeting acquisition of public open space and new conservation reserves to support wildlife corridors; and
- Promoting Land for Wildlife initiatives and prioritising environmental advice to landowners who are custodians of sections of wildlife corridors.



Overview of Corridor Network: Local Wildlife Corridors with Regional Ecological Linkages

It is important to note that there are many multi-use corridors within the wildlife corridor network, which can include footpaths, cycle ways, and bridle trails. Identification of a wildlife corridor does not prevent continued diverse uses but will require more careful management and planning of infrastructure upgrades.

Rising to the Challenge



Improving Animal Management

Introduced animals have a range of impacts on native species and natural areas. This includes predation and injury caused by household pets; land degradation and loss of habitat due to horses and livestock; and predation and habitat disruption by feral animals.

Planning controls on keeping of horses and livestock help preserve local natural areas and avoid land degradation. These are already established within the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No. 4 and Shire Guidelines for Keeping of Stock are regularly reviewed to reflect current stocking rates and other recommendations from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The Shire should continue to draw upon expert agricultural science to inform stocking rates.

Domestic pets including cats and dogs can have significant impacts on wildlife on or near their owner's property. The keeping of cats and dogs is governed by State legislation that provides for local governments to make corresponding local laws.

While dogs can be required to be contained on the owner's property with adequate fencing, currently the State legislation does not allow for a local law to require the same of cats. Advocacy for an amendment to the *Cat Act 2011* is recommended to allow for better containment of pet cats to reduce their impacts on native animals.

Feral animals including cats, pigs and foxes can range across State, Shire, and privately owned land. Pest birds including rainbow lorikeets, corella species and pink and grey galahs can compete aggressively for resources and nesting hollows, threatening the breeding success of local native species. Advocacy is recommended for greater effort and coordination of feral animal control within the very large areas of State managed land within the Shire, including National Parks and water catchment areas.

The Shire's Community Safety rangers assist residents with the trapping and removal of feral cats. There is currently no equivalent program for foxes or other feral animals. A previous initiative to loan large cage traps to residents was ended due to the extremely low fox

Rising to the Challenge



Trapping of foxes on reserves carries risks of harm to other animals, particularly where surrounding pets are not adequately contained, or warning signs to keep dogs on leashes are ignored. Trapping of foxes on private land reduces the risk of capturing dogs, but is expensive for individual landowners to engage contractors if they are not prepared to handle the trapping and euthanasia themselves. Further investigation of options, partnerships and other support for feral animal control is required.

Smaller feral animals including rabbits and rodents can directly compete with native animals for resources. Chemical baits and rodenticides used to target pest species can be eaten by other animals, including wildlife. For rabbits there is an alternative available which is a rabbit-specific virus, which has been released nationally since 2017 to aid in rabbit control. Residents are able to undertake online training through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on how to conduct their own virus release where rabbit numbers are high.

For rodents there are a range of traps available, as well as different kinds of bait that will reduce the risks of secondary poisoning.

While there are also risks to other animals including reptiles and other birds of prey, declaring the Shire of Mundaring as an 'Owl Friendly' area would build on an established secondary poisoning awareness raising initiative that has been successful elsewhere in Western Australia.

Improving animal management will include:

- Promoting responsible pet ownership and livestock management
- Advocating for effective control of feral animals within State Government lands
- Controlling feral animals within Shire managed reserves;
- Seeking or providing feral animal control assistance for residents;
- Raising community awareness of the risks of baits and of secondary poisoning to promote safer use.

Declaring the Shire to be 'Owl Friendly' provides an opportunity to quickly draw attention to the issue of secondary poisoning from rodenticides and encourage residents to immediately change pest management practices, as review of the issue by the federal regulator (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority) will take time.



Rising to the Challenge



Provide Water for Wildlife

Climate change has already reduced the amount of rainfall received within the Shire, as well as altered annual patterns and increased the likelihood of weather extremes. Because the soil is dryer and evaporation is higher, the reduction in streamflow is larger than the reduction in rainfall.

Maintaining water for wildlife will include:

- Leading by example through installing more watering stations within Shire managed reserves;
- Encouraging more residents and schools to add water into gardens, including bird baths and ground level water dishes;
- Rehabilitation of priority watercourses within Shire managed reserves; and
- Revising guidelines for dams to recognise that retaining water in the landscape can provide critical habitat in a drying climate, and recommend practical improvements to dams to improve habitat values and water retention.

Increasing the availability of water in the landscape will make a significant difference to the survival of wildlife in drought and heatwaves.

Support Artificial Habitats

The survival of some species may be supported by the provision of artificial nest boxes and other habitat features. While they should never be seen as a full substitute for the original habitat tree or natural area, they are still an important way for residents to support 'backyard biodiversity'.

Supporting artificial habitats will include:

- Making information on native animals and their habitat requirements easier to access;
- Encouraging and supporting residents to install nest boxes and other helpful habitat structures in locations that can support a range of species;
- Installing and monitoring more nest boxes within Shire managed reserves; and
- Mapping and temporarily marking trees with nest boxes for additional precautions before planned burns.

In many cases more research will be needed to determine what the most appropriate structures or features to support particular species.

Rising to the Challenge



Knowledge and Research

Given the landscape scale issues faced by the Shire, broad scale monitoring using remote data must form part of the approach moving forward. The Shire recently acquired detailed LiDAR mapping, used to create a digital elevation model (DEM) to inform stream network mapping. This data, combined with other sources, has other potential uses, from detailed slope analysis for fire mitigation planning, to improved vegetation mapping. The full benefit of this data is yet to be realised due to resourcing issues.

There is uncertainty whether the State Government will improve the collection and sharing of remotely collected data, which could reduce costs, duplication of effort and inconsistent collection between local governments.

Greater investment in the Shire's mapping capabilities, in a manner that improves land management practices is an opportunity requiring further resources and time.

There are opportunities to significantly improve local mapping of environmental assets and issues and better share information between Shire staff, residents and volunteers. The need for a system that provides for a two-way flow of information has been noted during consultation with catchment groups.

As noted elsewhere in this Strategy, there are many knowledge gaps in terms of how native species currently interact in their ecosystems as well as how this may alter due to climate change. The Shire will rarely be the best candidate to lead a research project but can be a collaborator, contributor and distributor of useful findings.

Opportunities for Shire staff, residents and environmental volunteers to participate in citizen science projects can yield significant new data and observations. Partnerships with research institutions, not-for-profit organisations and other land managers should be considered where they can lead to improved land management and biodiversity



Rising to the Challenge



Limit Disease and Dieback Spread

Phytophthora Dieback is a deadly introduced plant disease that is a major threat to local native plants and animals. It is a tiny water mould that attacks the roots of plants and causes them to rot. It lives in soil and infected plant tissue, and over 40% of WA native plant species can be killed or badly weakened by the *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (and to some extent, other introduced *Phytophthora* species).

The movement of infected soil, plant material or water containing dieback spores can spread Dieback into new areas and cause trees and bushland to die off. Native animals can then be affected if they are reliant on susceptible plant species for their food sources and habitat.

Unfortunately *Phytophthora* Dieback is already found in many areas of the Shire including road verges, bushland and gardens. A mapping project that took samples from conservation reserves for laboratory testing has confirmed that many of our reserves are partly infested and the disease will continue to slowly spread downhill with water movement.

Uninfested areas that are still protectable from *Phytophthora* Dieback are therefore a conservation priority. In areas free of Dieback, the vulnerable plant species can continue to thrive, providing opportunities for seed collection and providing habitat for native fauna.

Limiting dieback spread will include:

- Developing training and induction materials for Shire staff;
- Improving supervision of contractors working on Shire reserves or road reserves
- Planning works to minimise risk including machinery clean down areas, and working in dieback free areas first;
- Maintaining Dieback status guide posts in reserves to indicating Dieback Free and Dieback Infested Areas; and
- Improving information available about Dieback and practical measures to avoid introducing or spreading it.

Hygiene measures for Dieback will also help to minimise spread of other soil based diseases. Emerging threats such as myrtle rust fungus (*Austropuccinia psidii*) may be more difficult to control if it reaches the south-west of Western Australia. In each case, maintaining forest health may include revegetating affected areas with more resistant plants.

This will usually mean using seed from naturally resistant individual plants, but further research will be required to inform these approaches. There is more information about Dieback in Appendix 6.



Dieback Panorama Alps Street Reserve Terratree 2020

Rising to the Challenge



Integrating Conservation with Bushfire Mitigation

Protecting life and property is paramount within State and Local Government bushfire mitigation plans but protecting the natural environment is also a consideration. Intense landscape-scale wildfires are devastating to wildlife as well as humans. Bushfire preparedness is therefore critical to sustain the Shire’s biodiversity as well as protect residents and communities.

The Shire fulfils three key functions in relation to bushfire preparedness, which provide three opportunities to demonstrate or advocate for integrating biodiversity conservation with fire mitigation:

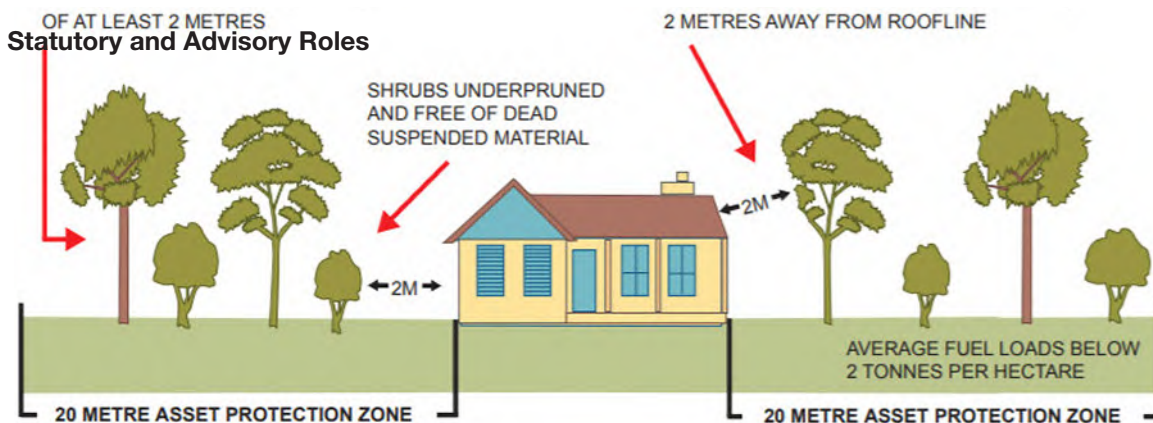
- Statutory and Advisory Roles (for private land, including local implementation of *Planning and Development Act 2005*, *Bushfires Act 1954*, and *Emergency Management Act 2005* and hazard plans such as State Hazard Plan - Fire)
- Land Manager (for Shire owned land and Shire managed reserves, as per Bushfire Risk Management Plan)
- Advocate (for State owned land and State managed reserves, as per Bushfire Risk Management Plan).

The Shire oversees consideration of approximately 500 planning applications and makes recommendations on approximately 50 subdivision applications per year. Local Planning Scheme No. 4 provides for consideration of both environmental protection and bushfire safety in decisions for development in bushfire prone areas.

The Shire also advises residents on bushfire safety and enforces requirements for preparation in accordance with the annual Firebreak and Fuel Loads Notice.

Both Planning and Emergency Management staff follow advice from DFES, including the Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines. This provides for more intensive fuel load management in the area immediately surrounding a house or habitable building (at least 20m, but can be further depending on slope).

The Shire’s Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice emphasises the importance of managing ground and mid-storey ‘ladder’ fuels. Ideally, application fuel reduction standards would be simple and consistent across development proposals through the planning system and the Shire’s annual FFL Notice.



Rising to the Challenge



State government support for local government-wide variation or standards differs across agencies. Given the gravity of risks, solid evidence based research is required for the Shire to confidently recalibrate the 'bar' within the planning system to better align with the Perth hills vegetation types and community expectations.

The FFL notice already enables a degree of autonomy in setting standards. Since this matter was highlighted by the Shire, it is noted the Bushfire Centre of Excellence has been created, with the aim to improve the collective understanding of fire management in the Western Australian vegetation complexes, geology and conditions. Extension of policy approaches developed in other states with other types of vegetation has been a critical barrier to informing a more nuanced approach to bushfire planning policy in WA.

As the State planning bushfire framework continues to evolve and be reviewed, the Shire will continue to actively participate and advocate for requirements that align with local vegetation types, geography and compliance regimes.

Land Manager & Advocate - BRMP

The State's introduction of the Bushfire Risk Management Framework and Mitigation Activity Fund has increased the Shire's capacity to manage fuel reduction and other mitigation activities. It has also heightened understanding of risks across all tenures.

The Shire's Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) has been approved by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management and adopted by Council. It sets out a five year plan of firebreak improvements and fuel reduction works to protect critical infrastructure, particularly urban settlements, infrastructure and sensitive land uses.

Significantly, the total expenditure on Shire reserves from the Mitigation Activity Fund for last 3 years has reached \$1,778,270. A large portion (estimated at \$687,857) has been directed to fuel reduction via weed control over the last three years. This represents 38% of the total MAFS expenditure, and weed control will continue to be a significant element of fuel load reduction and fire mitigation works each year. The application of MAFS funding to weed control and other work that offers co-benefits for bushfire preparedness but also biodiversity conservation should continue.

Rising to the Challenge



Advocacy using BRMP

The Shire also has an obligation to advise other landowners and managers, including State agencies, of their obligations under the endorsed BRMP. As has been noted, the largest land managers within the Shire are State agencies. These often have different budgets and targets for annual fuel reduction, risk appetites and awareness of local issues.

The BRMP, as a State endorsed mechanism, enables the Shire to be in a strong position to advocate for particular outcomes and careful mitigation work with State agencies. Continued communication, collaboration and learning across stakeholders is critical to both bushfire preparedness and biodiversity outcomes. There are opportunities to draw together information from a range of sources to continue to improve land management for both.

Two-way science refers to the process of sharing and integrating Aboriginal traditional ecological knowledge with current scientific research. Some elements of traditional fire management have already been adopted by Shire staff undertaking bushfire risk mitigation work within reserves.

These include mosaic burning, cool burns, and removing the fuel around important trees before burning. Further guidance is expected to be developed by the Bushfire Centre of Excellence.

The South West Native Title Settlement process will result in the transfer of significant areas of land into the care of the Noongar Boodja Trust. This may provide more opportunities to share knowledge between Shire staff, bushfire researchers, and Noongar Corporations that are established to manage different lands.

Over the last decade there has been a significant increase in research and scientific understanding of bushfire behaviour and effectiveness of mitigation measures. However, there are still many questions that require further investigation, particularly in Western Australian forests and taking into account accelerating climate change.

The Shire engaged consultants in 2021 to prepare a summary of ecological fire management based on current scientific understanding and used the Glen Forrest Superblock as a case study. This is summarised in Appendix 5.

Using two-way science to inform bushfire mitigation will include:

- Seeking to learn from both past Aboriginal burning practices and current research to continuously improve the Shire practices;
- Facilitating knowledge sharing between bushfire researchers, practitioners, residents, and traditional owners; and
- Directing efforts toward bushfire mitigation actions that will have the greatest bushfire safety benefits for the community with the least environmental impact.

The landscape has changed through settlement, logging, weed invasion and now climate change, but there are still important elements from traditional fire management that will align closely with the science and should be used to inform fire mitigation in a custodianship approach.

Rising to the Challenge



Shire's Role Moving Forward

The previous biodiversity strategy achieved significant improvements to the Shire's planning and environmental regulatory framework, particularly vegetation protection provisions on private land. Given the extent of natural areas remaining on private land, continuation of this approach to planning and development will continue to be a priority.

However, a regulatory approach can only go so far and is framed to prevent the worst of environmental outcomes. Regulation and rule setting to prevent clearing does not empower landowners to actively manage for biodiversity conservation or automatically develop a deeper sense of custodianship.

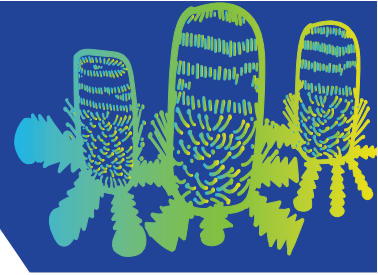
A suite of other initiatives are required, including careful integration with fire mitigation.

The Shire's capacity to undertake, intervene or guide natural area management varies depending on the ownership or land tenure. The Shire needs to advocate, collate information and help induce commitment and appropriate action from various landowners and stakeholders.

Harnessing significant insights and observations from volunteers and residents will be critical to improving knowledge and future management. Improving biodiversity outcomes across this landscape therefore requires sustained and simultaneous investment across the Shire's various roles and responsibilities.



Actions to Protect our Biodiversity



The approaches and principles outlined above have been addressed across different land tenures, where the Shire has different opportunities to promote biodiversity conservation. Nature reserves that the Shire manages directly are important, but they will not be viable long term if they are not connected to a surrounding network of natural areas on State Government and private land.

Objectives and achievable actions have been identified to support private landowners in responsible custodianship of natural areas (including verges), improve Shire management of nature reserves, and advocate for effective biodiversity conservation measures on State Government lands. These are listed in tables below with the timeframe indicated as:

Short: 2023 - 2025 | Medium: 2025 - 2027 | Long: 2027 - 2030

Actions listed as ‘Ongoing’ represent a continuation of a current service level. Actions listed with a ‘Short’ timeframe are logical extensions to the current service level, or high priority actions relating to strategic needs (such as integrating conservation and fire mitigation). Highest priority actions which will increase staff for environmental management are marked *.

This Strategy should be subject to a major review in 2030, with a midway update to mapping and review of listed actions planned for 2026/2027.

Table 1 Actions relating to Shire managed nature reserves

Managing Nature Reserves

Objective: Improve management of nature reserves to address threatening processes and maintain habitat values.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
1.1	Continue to target priority weed species following the ‘Bradley Method’ of bush regeneration, along with opportunistic weed control.	Ongoing	Parks
1.2	Maintain Landcare Team support, access to native seedlings, training and networking opportunities for Friends Groups.	Ongoing	Parks
1.3	Continue annual surveys and requests for annual work plans from Friends Groups, to help identify potential grant applications and avoid conflict with Shire works.	Ongoing	Parks

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
1.4	Provide guidance and practical support for Friends Groups and Catchment Groups applying for grant funding for environmental restoration works, with effort prioritised based on conservation values and likely outcomes.	Ongoing	Parks
1.5	Continue to recommend protection of environmental features and watercourse restoration as conditions of subdivision and development, and where necessary require a maintenance period in addition for land to be ceded as Public Open Space/ Drainage.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
1.6	Continue to enhance bushfire risk mitigation approaches and activities, including strategic burning that provides for a range of habitat / fuel ages within conservation reserves.	Ongoing	Emergency Management
1.7	Advocate for state bushfire mitigation funding to be allocated based on risk, and specifically permitted to be used on weed control, which reduces ongoing fuel loads as well as supporting biodiversity outcomes.	Short	Emergency Management
1.8	Develop a template and begin preparing Fire and Environmental Work Plans with input from adjoining residents and the relevant Friends Group to map significant environmental features, better coordinate pre-fire preparation and post-fire weed control, and reduce potential for conflict between landcare / revegetation efforts and bushfire mitigation activities.	Short	Emergency Management; Parks
1.9	Develop a process to review work plans prepared by Friends Groups for annual revegetation using Seedlings for Landcare program, and proposed grant applications, to ensure they will not conflict with planned parks or bushfire mitigation works (or Fire and Environmental Work Plans, where prepared).	Short	Parks; Emergency Management
1.10	Review practices for managing contractors and supporting environmental volunteers working on reserves to address implications of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i> .	Short	Parks
1.11	Review opportunities for regional programs with Perth NRM and other Local Governments, such as Eastern Region Catchment Management Program. [Business Case may be required.]	Short	Parks; Planning & Environment
1.12	Improve Shire mapping of reserves and investigate options to provide or improve community reporting tools for invasive weed infestations, feral animals, erosion and other issues of concern in a way that supports a two-way flow of information.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
1.13	Identify biodiverse reference sites within reserves that can be visited by Friends Groups and residents to help plan rehabilitation of similar areas.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks
1.14	Trial Friends Group Reserve signage to signify a Friends Group reserve and promote volunteerism.	Short	Parks
1.15	Hold novel events and undertake low risk trial activities to explore new ways to attract environmental volunteers, with outcomes to inform the Shire's environmental volunteer engagement model and an update of the Friends Group Manual.	Short	Parks
1.16	Revise priority weeds list based on changes to state and national pest plant listings and observations of volunteers and shire staff working on reserves.	Short	Parks; Emergency Management
1.17	Develop a business case for recurring dieback treatment and mapping to maintain ecological values in priority reserves.	Short	Parks; Planning & Environment
1.18	Engage consultants to develop a comprehensive Lake Leschenaultia Management Plan to protect and enhance the Lake's environmental values whilst allowing for a range of nature-based recreational activities.	Short	Recreation & Leisure; Planning & Environment
1.19	Develop a low cost annual program to monitor surface water quality within Jane Brook, Susannah Brook, Woorloo Brook, Woodbridge Creek and the Helena River in consultation with Catchment Groups and relevant State Government agencies.	Short	Parks;
1.20	Develop nature play areas, interpretive signage and activities to enhance the environmental education opportunities at Lake Leschenaultia.	Short	Recreation & Leisure; Planning & Environment
1.21 *	Develop a business case to provide additional resources (which may include a fire ecologist or similar) to map and monitor condition of nature reserves, develop and implement plans for priority reserves, and coordinate weed control efforts and conservation activities with bushfire mitigation actions.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks; Emergency Management
1.22 *	Increase on-ground resources for Shire management of natural areas and support for environmental volunteers. [Business case required.]	Short	Parks
1.23	Outline the Shire's intent within the Public Open Space (POS) Strategy to use POS developer contributions to enhance social and ecological functions, including upgrading or establishing multi-purpose access trails, installing nature play areas and sculptural water stations within reserves.	Medium	Planning & Environment
1.24	Seek funding to install wildlife watering stations in locations that also will provide environmental education and bird watching opportunities.	Medium	Parks

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
1.25	Develop or adapt a citizen science program to map orchids within nature reserves to inform Shire management actions and Friends Group activities.	Medium	Parks; Planning & Environment
1.26	Develop or update Reserve Management Plans for the ten highest priority conservation reserves with areas considered protectable from dieback long term – including: Lake Leschenaultia, Chidlow (Res. 23165) Alps Street Reserve, Mount Helena (Res. 34103) Strettle Road Reserve (Res. 32727) Pindalup Reserve, Wooroloo (Res. 39853) Superblock Reserve, Glen Forrest (Res. 50018) North Darlington Reserves, incl. Nan Macmillan (Res. 6922) Black Cockatoo Reserves, Mundaring (Res. 20990 & 12422) Falls Road Reserve, Hovea (Res. 12453) Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea/Parkerville (Res. 14163) Callan Road Reserve, Hovea (Res. 38224)	Medium/ Long	Parks; Emergency Management
1.27	Trial use of QR codes on signage at selected reserves to connect Friends Group members, residents and visitors to online information about the site (such as natural features, recreational opportunities, park infrastructure, dieback hygiene, and potential hazards).	Medium	Parks; Recreation & Leisure
1.28	Improve signage in natural areas within reserves, particularly Lake Leschenaultia and the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail.	Medium	Parks; Recreation & Leisure
1.29	To better direct management effort and resources towards areas of greater conservation value, review reserves under 0.5 hectares and identify land with low ecological and recreational values, to consider for rezoning or alternate land uses (subject to community consultation).	Medium	Parks; Planning & Environment
1.30	Monitor opportunities for research, partnerships and funding for climate adaptation planting initiatives based on projected mid-century climatic conditions, including targeted seed collection.	Medium/ Long	Planning & Environment; Parks
1.31	Develop proposals for alternate land uses for reserves identified as having low ecological and recreational values, enabling resources to be redirected towards remaining reserves.	Long	Planning & Environment
1.32	Explore potential for a portion of Quail Street Reserve to be incorporated into the Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary, managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy with feral predator exclusion fencing.	Long	Parks; Emergency Management
1.33	Review resources required for effective ongoing management of conservation reserves following reserve rationalisation, ceding of new public open space through subdivision, and changes to environmental volunteering and grant programs.	Long	Parks; Emergency Management

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Table 2 Actions relating to private land and custodianship

Custodianship of Natural Assets

Objective: Protect natural areas and encourage their responsible use and enjoyment; provide a range of opportunities to learn about nature; and foster a culture of conservation and custodianship.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
2.1	Improve mapping and delineation of watercourses and Local Natural Areas within the local planning framework, including updating of maps as better information becomes available.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
2.2	Maintain Environmental Asset Inspection Service and Environmental Officer capacity to advise on development proposals to retain and enhance natural features where possible.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
2.3	Maintain Seedlings for Landcare Program which supports rehabilitation efforts on rural zoned land and schools, as well as volunteers working on Shire managed reserves.	Ongoing	Parks
2.4	Continually review bushfire mitigation advice services for residents including workshops on how to plan mosaic burning, conduct cool burns to minimise environmental damage, and manage weeds pre and post burn.	Ongoing	Emergency Management
2.5	Maintain and regularly update print materials including brochures, information sheets and free booklets that help residents understand and care for the natural environment.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
2.6	Maintain environmental education initiatives including Six Seasons newsletter, talks and workshops, development of video and online content, and Environmental Art Project.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
2.7	Increase capacity of Environmental Service to provide site visits and advice to residents about managing their local natural areas, restoration of watercourses and wildlife corridors, weed control, nest boxes and other habitat enhancement options.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.8	Maintain protection of local natural areas and seek opportunities for further integration of this Local Biodiversity Strategy and the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy into the Local Planning Scheme and Local Planning Strategy when these documents are reviewed.	Short	Planning & Environment

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
2.9	Advocacy to the State and Commonwealth Governments for stronger environmental protection legislation and more funding for science-based environmental restoration programs.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.10	Ensure linkages identified within the wildlife corridor network are considered and protected where possible through land use planning and other mechanisms.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks
2.11	Advocate for improved funding and capability for the Land for Wildlife program hosted by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.12	Develop a local Land for Wildlife service to provide environmental site visits and advice, promote directly to residents who are custodians of mapped wildlife corridors, and prioritise requests based on conservation values and opportunities.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.13	Develop new resources (including web content, brochures and free booklets) and conservation action kits for local native animals – available to all residents but promoted directly to residents who are custodians of mapped wildlife corridors.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.14	Source or develop web content and supporting citizen science materials to encourage residents and volunteers to record species sightings through national citizen science platforms including iNaturalist, FrogID, Birddata and the Atlas of Living Australia.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.15	Seek partnerships and funding for citizen science initiatives to improve knowledge of native animals, plants and fungi.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.16	Declare the Shire of Mundaring to be Owl Friendly and provide promotional and educational material about the harm of secondary poisoning to pets and wildlife from some rodenticides.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.17	Revise guidelines for dams to promote features that improve habitat values, and recognise that retaining water in the landscape can provide critical habitat in a drying climate.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.18	Prepare or promote information about the responsible use and storage of chemicals to prevent watercourse and groundwater pollution.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.19	Continue to promote responsible cat ownership and outdoor cat runs to limit impacts on native animals.	Short	Community Safety

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
2.20	Advocate to the State Government to amend the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> , enabling the Shire to amend its Local Law to restrict cats to a property and increase penalties.	Short	Community Safety
2.21	Investigate options and develop a service or program that supports control of feral animals on private land.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.22	Seek opportunities to exchange information and collaborate with traditional owners managing conservation lands as part of Noongar Land Estate.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.23	Invite traditional owners managing lands within the Shire as part of the Noongar Land Estate to nominate for Environmental Advisory Committee membership, and/or nominate their preferred engagement method.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.24	Collaborate with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, traditional owners, Catchment Groups and other stakeholders to support Helena River restoration works.	Short/ Medium	Parks
2.25	Consider amendment to Art Collection Policy (OR-09) to include works that celebrate the natural landscape and native species found within the Shire.	Medium	Community Engagement
2.26	Seek partnerships and funding for murals and public art projects that incorporate local native species and landscapes.	Medium	Community Engagement
2.27	Seek partnerships and funding to deliver an event/s that supports nature based tourism and celebrates the natural beauty of the Shire, raises awareness of native plants and animals, encourages responsible pet and livestock ownership, and promotes sustainable and self-sufficient lifestyles.	Medium	Recreation & Leisure; Planning & Environment
2.28	Seek partnerships and funding to deliver a program that helps residents access seeds / seedlings of firewise native plants that are suited to residential gardens and provide important resources for native bees.	Medium	Planning & Environment
2.29	Seek partnerships and funding to deliver a conference that brings together bushfire and biodiversity researchers and practitioners to inform future natural area management and bushfire mitigation practices.	Medium	Planning & Environment
2.30	Investigate options to develop or adapt material that supports residents in using principles of traditional burning practices appropriate for our landscape.	Medium	Community Safety

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
2.31	Review the Local Emergency Management Arrangements Recovery sub-plan for environmental bushfire recovery to seek more funding and better support residents dealing with post-bushfire issues including weed growth.	Medium	Planning & Environment; Emergency Management
2.32	Produce watercourse restoration guidelines based on Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy recommendations and link to species available through the Seedlings for Landcare program.	Medium	Parks; Planning & Environment
2.33	Seek partnerships and funding to investigate use of Miyawaki forest patches for carbon sequestration, biodiversity refuges and 'stepping stones' enabling wildlife movement in bushfire prone areas.	Medium	Planning & Environment
2.34	Investigate options for establishing a community based Landcare Centre, modelled on successful organisations such as SERCUL, Landcare SJ, and Chittering Landcare Centre.	Long	Planning & Environment
2.35	Engage with all local schools to canvas use of environmental education support generally and initiate programs or projects to fill identified gaps.	Long	Planning & Environment; Parks



Annual Environmental Art Project encourages primary school children to creatively engage with local and global environmental issues

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Table 3 Actions relating to road reserves

Verges and Roadside Conservation

Objective: Maintain native vegetation within road reserves where safe and practical, to maintain biodiversity conservation values and local landscape character and amenity.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
3.1	Plan and conduct works within road reserves with the aim to minimise impacts on watercourses and native vegetation.	Ongoing	Infrastructure Design
3.2	Prioritise retention of mature trees and native vegetation in new road reserves in accordance with Street Tree Policy provisions for subdivision.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
3.3	Continue to review landowner applications for crossovers and other proposals that include clearing of the verge in accordance with Roadside Conservation Policy.	Ongoing	Infrastructure Design
3.4	Continue to assess proposed works for telecommunications and utilities in accordance with Roadside Conservation Policy and encourage dieback hygiene measures.	Ongoing	Infrastructure Design
3.5	Maintain Roadside Vegetation Management team efforts focussed on priority weed species and recognised Flora Roads (e.g. Bailup Road).	Ongoing	Parks
3.6	Purchase additional Green Spot signs and continue to relocate on an annual basis based on community nominations of fauna movement hotspots.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment; Operations
3.7	Improve understanding of seasonal animal behaviour and investigate options for verge adjustments or temporary signage in locations where there are significant wildlife movements and/or injuries, such as known turtle crossings.	Short	Parks; Operations
3.8	Advocate for review of traffic management requirements for roadside weed control, to enable safe work to address priority weeds on verges without excessive traffic management costs.	Short	Parks; Operations
3.9	Incorporate follow-up weed control, and revegetation where required into planning and budgets for Shire works on roads and roadside infrastructure.	Short	Operations; Emergency Management
3.10	Improve mapping of priority weed species within road reserves, recording of control efforts and monitoring of results to better plan and refine control measures.	Short	Parks
3.11	Continue to encourage landowners to improve bush verges adjacent to their property by undertaking weed control, which also reduces fuel loads.	Short	Emergency

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
3.12	Preparation and implementation of a Works Environmental Checklist for planning and management of works within bush verges to minimise dieback risk and environmental impacts.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks; Emergency Management
3.13	Undertake stormwater intervention review and implement recommendations from the adopted Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy relating to drainage and stormwater management within road reserves.	Short	Infrastructure Design; Operations
3.14	Improve protection of native vegetation through reviews of relevant local laws.	Short	Governance
3.15	Develop dieback awareness training and induction material for Shire staff working within road reserves.	Short	Planning & Environment; Operations
3.16	Investigate naming of roads to include local native plants and animals, including traditional Noongar names (following consultation).	Medium	Planning & Environment
3.17	Review Street Trees Policy and Street Tree Guidelines, updating species list to remove trees that will be more susceptible to projected climate by 2050.	Medium	Planning & Environment; Parks
3.18	Review plans for future major road construction and widening and identify potential sites on adjacent properties, to establish compensatory planting prior to clearing within the road reserve.	Medium	Planning & Environment, Infrastructure Design
3.19	Investigate options to map habitat trees located within road reserves and schedule recurring dieback treatment for significant trees at risk from dieback infestations.	Medium	Parks
3.20	Develop seed collection guidelines to harvest seed from native plants required to be cleared for works within road reserves, where feasible.	Medium	Parks
3.21	Develop a Street Tree Masterplan to include a biodiverse selection of resilient, firewise tree species to address urban heat island issues in the foothills and within townsites in the hills.	Medium / Long	Parks

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Table 4 Actions relating to State managed lands

Advocacy for State Managed Lands

Objective: Encourage effective biodiversity conservation initiatives and management of State Government lands and reserves.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
4.1	Continue to monitor bushfire risk and research findings and advocate for careful implementation of bushfire risk mitigation activities to maintain biodiversity values on State Government managed lands.	Ongoing	Emergency Management
4.2	Continue to lodge objections to mining tenements.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
4.3	Advocate for Main Roads WA to improve weed control along highways and within regional road reserves.	Ongoing	Infrastructure; Emergency Management
4.4	Share information and encourage public participation in review of the Forest Management Plan for native forests.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.5	Advocate for more active, coordinated and effective control of weeds and feral animals in national parks, regional parks, and Water Corporation managed lands.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.6	Advocate for greater environmental flows into the Helena River from Water Corporation dams.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.7	Advocate for improved collection and sharing of biodiversity information and mapping (across all land tenures) by State Government.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.8	Advocate for greater investment in national parks and regional parks within the Shire to enhance recreational use of trails and enjoyment of natural areas.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.9	To help address illegal firewood collection, advocate for an incentive program to assist residents to replace wood fires with electric heating, which would improve air quality as well as reduce demand for firewood that is driving illegal logging in both state and local government managed reserves.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.10	Advocate for more effective planning and monitoring of firewood and timber harvesting to reduce negative impacts of illegal logging.	Short	Planning & Environment

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
4.11	Advocate for investigation of the potential for strategic thinning of regrowth areas in timber reserves to better mimic the structure of old growth forests, in a way that may also address bushfire risk and illegal logging.	Short/ Medium	Planning & Environment; Emergency Management
4.12	Advocate for positive environmental outcomes in relation to the planning of Eastlink.	Medium	Planning & Environment
4.13	Advocate for State agencies to incorporate climate adaptation principles into management of State forest and national parks.	Medium	Planning & Environment
4.14	Encourage sustainable nature based tourism initiatives and attractions within State Government managed lands.	Medium	Planning & Environment
4.15	Encourage public participation in consultation processes for mining proposals and advocate for protection of native forests within the Shire as an important ecological, cultural and recreational asset for the Perth region.	Long	Planning & Environment



Photo: A. Lebel

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Actions Requiring Business Cases

Most actions reflect a recalibration of existing staff and budget allocations. The review has highlighted areas requiring greater intervention and prioritisation that require business cases to be developed for additional funding allocations.

The table below lists specific actions requiring business cases to be developed to request funding allocations. It should be noted that the success of other actions that depend on the provision of staff and resources will be affected by the outcomes of the budget process and decisions on these business cases.

Table 5 Actions requiring new business cases and funding decisions

Action	Estimated Cost	Likely Year
Hold novel events and undertake low risk trial activities to explore new ways to attract environmental volunteers, with outcomes to inform the Shire's environmental volunteer engagement model and an update of the Friends Group Manual.	\$15,000 per annum for two years	2023/2024
Develop a comprehensive Lake Leschenaultia Management Plan to protect and enhance the Lake's environmental values whilst allowing for a range of nature-based recreational activities.	\$60,000	2023/2024 or 2024/2025
Undertake recurring dieback treatment to maintain ecological values in priority reserves.	\$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum	2023/2024
Develop a business case to employ additional staff (which may include a fire ecologist or similar) to map and monitor condition of nature reserves, develop and implement plans for priority reserves, and coordinate weed control efforts and conservation activities with bushfire mitigation actions.	\$90,000 to \$160,000 per annum	2023/2024 or 2024/2025
Review opportunities for regional programs with Perth NRM and other Local Governments, such as Eastern Region Catchment Management Program.	\$20,000 - \$40,000 per annum	2024/2025
Update mapping of environmental features and Local Natural Areas using aerial photography and other remotely collected spatial data.	Assess options and costs in 2025	2026/2027

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Reporting and Review

The following indicators have been selected to provide an annual snapshot of progress, to be reported to Council.

- Number of properties supported as part of new Land for Wildlife service
- Number of nature-based talks, videos (views), workshops and events held for residents
- Number of native seedlings distributed to residents, schools and Friends Groups
- Number of Environmental Asset Inspections by Environmental Officers
- Number of feral animals removed from natural areas
- Number of registered Friends Group volunteers
- Number of reserves with Fire and Environmental Work Plans
- Number of reserves with Reserve Management Plans less than ten years old
- Hectares of dieback treatment undertaken
- Changes to mapped extent of native vegetation or Local Natural Area
- Changes to mapped condition of native vegetation (if available).

Updating of mapping for native vegetation extent and Local Natural Areas will likely continue to depend on State Government remote data collection. If the relevant mapping is updated biannually or less often, then the Shire's annual reporting will be based on the most recent available dataset. If the State Government does not continue to collect and provide these datasets then alternative indicators may be required (which may not be as accurate due to the cost of remote data collection and processing).

This Strategy should be subject to a major review in 2030, with a midway update to mapping and review of listed actions planned for 2026/2027.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

The Local Biodiversity Strategy adopted by Council in 2009 had a strong focus on prioritising natural areas at risk and protecting them through the local planning framework. The Strategy was developed using mapping (2008), funding, and methodology provided by the Perth Biodiversity Project, hosted by the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

This model, developed by the Perth Biodiversity Project, used mapped native vegetation complexes to represent ecosystems and a threshold of less than 30% remaining to prioritise certain complexes for protection. This model also recognised the constraints of the planning system and established development rights of private landholders, marking areas already zoned for more intensive development as committed by zoning.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 followed processes and adopted definitions from the 'Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for the Perth Metropolitan Region'. These Guidelines and the related mapping provided Local Governments with an understanding of the values of biodiversity in the Perth Metropolitan Region, and a methodology for preparing and implementing Local Biodiversity Strategies. The four key features of a Local Biodiversity Strategy prepared following the Guidelines are mechanisms to protect local natural areas, support for private land conservation, bushland sensitive land development, and improving management of nature reserves.

Attention was focussed on the areas where local governments could influence outcomes using a definition (and remnant native vegetation mapping) of 'Local Natural Areas' or LNA, being 'the natural areas that are not currently protected in the public conservation

estate or included within state forests, water catchment areas or Bush Forever sites.'

The difficulty of retaining LNA on land with existing development rights (such as residential or commercial zones) was recognised with a classification of 'Limited Protection/Committed by Zoning'. Other definitions were introduced to classify LNA for Conservation, Protection or Retention (below) on Shire managed reserves or rural zoned land. These have since been embedded in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

Conservation means vesting of Crown Land for a conservation purpose; inclusion in a proposed Local Reserve for Conservation in Local Planning Scheme No. 4; or inclusion in a Conservation Covenant.

Protection means that the natural area is identified as such in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy, is given additional protection under the Scheme and is a high priority for on-ground management. There is a very strong presumption against clearing natural areas identified as 'Protection', or allowing rezoning which would threaten the ecological value of these natural areas.

Areas identified with a 'Retention' status, whilst usually being of lower conservation priority than the above natural areas, are still proposed to receive additional protection under the Scheme and will need to be retained to maintain the Shire's current levels of biodiversity. There is generally a very strong presumption against allowing the clearing of areas identified as 'retention'. And whilst these areas are a lower priority for active management, landowners should still be encouraged to manage and restore them.

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Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

Local Natural Areas were subsequently identified in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy (2013) and categorised as Conservation (reserved land), Protection, or Retention. The gazettal of Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (LPS4) in 2014 changed the purpose of many local reserves to Conservation, as well as putting in place protections and requirements for planning approval for clearing of Protection or Retention category LNA on private land.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 listed four goals:

1. *To aim to have 1065 hectares of LNA included in the Conservation Category and recognised by the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and LPS4; and to endeavour to increase the amount of LNA in the Conservation Category to up to approximately 1570 ha over time.*
2. *To have 5830 ha of LNA included in the Protection Category and recognised in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and LPS4; and to endeavour to increase the amount of LNA in the Protection Category to up to approximately 5865 ha over time.*
3. *To have 510 ha of LNA included in the Retention Category and recognised in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and LPS4; and to endeavour to increase the amount of LNA in the Retention Category to up to approximately 1190 ha over time.*
4. *All Council's Local Reserves for Conservation in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 are actively managed for biodiversity conservation and half of all other Conservation Category LNAs and Protection Category (at least an estimated 2925 ha) are actively managed for conservation.*

A review of the Shire's LNA was undertaken by WALGA using their Environmental Planning Tool in 2020, using vegetation complex mapping maintained by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the 'Native Vegetation Extent' dataset produced by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in 2020. The review of LNA mapped and recognised through the Local Planning Strategy and LPS4 found that:

1. 6,240 hectares of LNA was included in the Conservation Category;
2. 5573 hectares of LNA was included in the Protection Category; and
3. 292 hectares of LNA mapped and recognised as Retention Category in LPS4.

The large additional area included in the Conservation Category beyond the original target was partly due to rezoning of an area that was originally included in state managed lands and therefore not classified as LNA in 2009.

The WALGA review found that if the prioritisation process was repeated in 2020, less LNA would meet Priority 1 Conservation criteria compared to 2008 while more LNA would meet Priority 2 criteria.

The primary reason was identified as increased fragmentation of native vegetation in the Shire, resulting in less LNAs mapped as 'habitat' (LNAs larger than 10 ha separated by 8m from another patch of vegetation). This is a potential flaw within the original methodology, whereby the remaining native vegetation could be classified as less critical to protect based on surrounding losses, rather than more.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

After 2020 the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development ceased production of the Native Vegetation Extent dataset, however it is anticipated that another state agency may continue to produce that or a similar dataset in the near future.

The WA Local Government Association has also ceased providing the Environmental Planning Tool and support services.

The summary of extent of vegetation complexes remaining in Appendix 1 is based on the 2020 dataset.

In May 2022 the State Government released the first Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia. The policy includes a commitment for state agencies to identify and progress reforms to:

1. Consider and transparently account for the values of native vegetation in decision making that affects it, based on the best information available at the time.
2. Apply the mitigation hierarchy steps to any planned impacts on native vegetation at both strategic and project scale – avoid, minimise, then rehabilitate – before considering offsets.
3. Improve the spatial capture of their regulatory, land management, land planning and funding decisions that affect native vegetation, applying common data standards to facilitate data sharing.

4. Work together with other agencies and stakeholders to expand and apply the native vegetation knowledge base, improve mapping and monitoring of its status and values, and broaden the availability of spatial data.

A re-assessment of conservation priority should be undertaken in future once appropriate datasets again become available; however, the criteria will also need reconsideration given the very high threshold initially set to classify LNA as ‘habitat’ and the need to take into account local level protection of representative vegetation types.

At present, the conservation priorities identified in the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 and recognised in the Local Planning Strategy remain appropriate for strategic land use planning, and the update that is required is to the extent of LNA (to reflect areas cleared since 2009) as provided for in LPS4.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

Implementation through Local Planning Framework

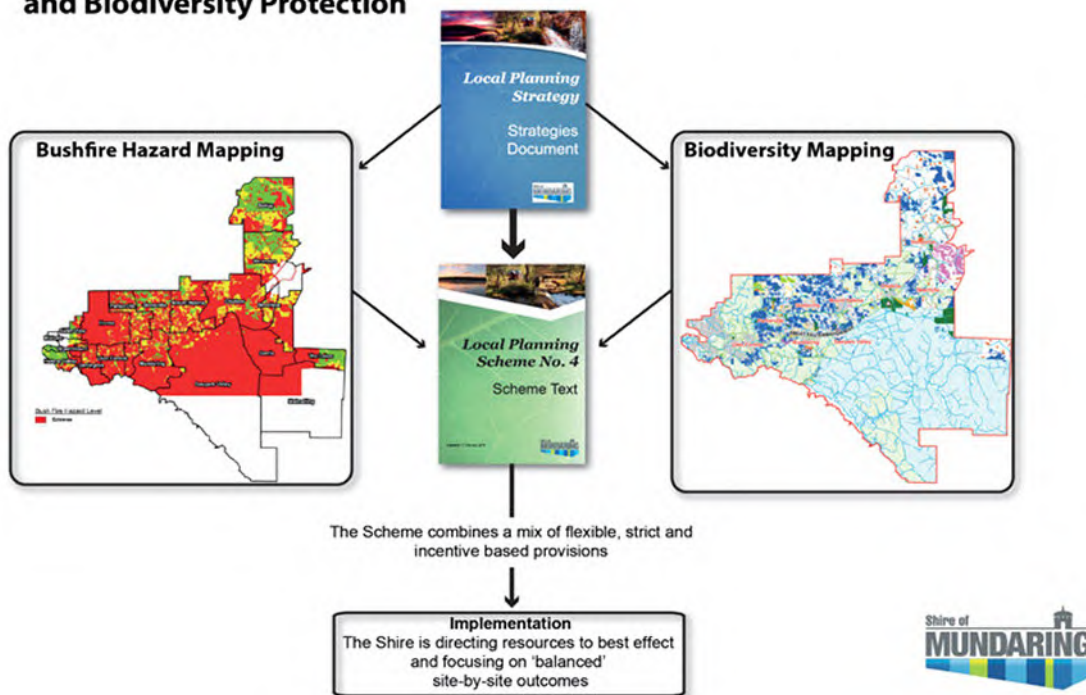
The Shire’s approach to balancing biodiversity protection with bushfire risk mitigation through its Local Planning Scheme has been recognised as best practice. Embedding protections for priority Local Natural Areas within the planning framework has helped to retain bushland and habitat.

As noted in the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009, “Biodiversity strategies are not statutory documents, and need to be incorporated into the Local Planning Strategy and reflected in the Town Planning Scheme to have a bearing on Local and State Government decisions. This is critical as many of the decisions that impact on biodiversity and natural areas are linked to land use planning and development.”

schemes within the State that embeds biodiversity mapping into a statutory layer, referred to as Local Natural Areas (LNA). The LPS4 provisions also afford protection to individual trees and patches of bushland too small to be recognised as LNAs. These trees or small areas of native vegetation are not as high a priority in the protection of biodiversity, but can still retain important habitat features and aesthetic and cultural values.

Apart from limited exceptions, the removal of local native vegetation requires planning approval from the Shire and the LPS4 provisions set out the criteria for assessing any such application. The protection of significant trees in Residential areas is more complicated and is generally more difficult to achieve.

Achieving Bushfire Mitigation and Biodiversity Protection



Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

It should be noted that one of the key exceptions from these controls relates to any vegetation required to be removed in order to comply with bushfire safety requirements under LPS4 and the Guidelines.

The Shire's role in administering planning controls to protect bushland and recognised environmental assets is generally consistent with the wider community's expectations, and generally enjoys a high level of support.

Some residents expect stronger controls preventing any further clearing, however this would frequently contradict bushfire risk requirements and existing development rights. Adding further controls on clearing within bushfire asset protection zone (i.e. a significant tree register), particularly in residential areas could also add a significant administrative burden to the Shire and affected residents for minimal gain, and would likely diminish the respect for current measures that are in place.

The Shire's approach has been recognised by the WAPC as leading the way in the State in relation to protection provisions, because it involved the inclusion of provisions within its local planning scheme, which seeks to balance bushfire safety and biodiversity protection within the local planning framework.

The LPS4 provisions regarding protecting vegetation are also consistent with the intent and direction of the Shire's endorsed Community Strategy Plan and Local Planning Strategy, which support a general presumption against the clearing of native vegetation wherever practicable.

Since the adoption of the Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy in 2009 and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 in 2014, there have been significant reforms to the state planning framework.

These have shifted more decision making for subdivisions and larger scale developments from local to State Government, and elevated bushfire risk as a key planning consideration.

The Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 stated, "for the purposes of this Strategy, it is estimated that existing subdivision potential and development rights could lead to approximately 315 ha of clearing."

A review of the planning applications completed since 2013 that impacted upon mapped LNA (287 applications) found a total of 39.7ha of vegetation has been permitted to be removed or modified as part of the Shire planning approval process. This figure is in addition to the vegetation lost as a result of subdivision and or modification of vegetation on private property.

Options for improving remote mapping including vegetation cover and health are required.

Within the local planning framework there is a strong presumption against clearing LNA, but this does not extend to prohibiting a landowner from constructing a dwelling and other structures where there is no appropriate cleared area on the site.

The mapped LNA essentially serves as a trigger for a planning assessment and for a more detailed environmental inspection. In these instances, the Shire's environmental, planning and fire team have been directly involved in early advice to landowners regarding the siting of dwellings to minimise the extent of clearing and balance bushfire and biodiversity considerations.

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Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

The mapped LNA essentially serves as a trigger for a planning assessment and for a more detailed environmental inspection. In these instances, the Shire's environmental, planning and fire team have been directly involved in early advice to landowners regarding the siting of dwellings to minimise the extent of clearing and balance bushfire and biodiversity considerations.

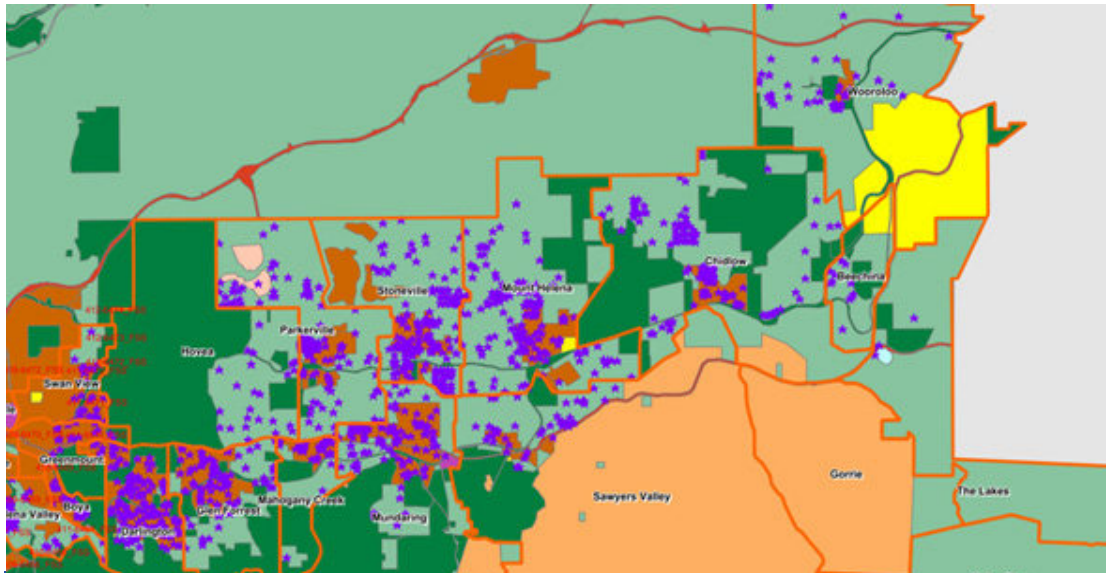
While habitat trees are often mapped on site as part of the planning process it is not comprehensive, and mapping effort is prioritised close to the proposed developed rather than across the whole property. The habitat trees layer that is used to record these on the Shire's GIS is marked as 'limited mapping' and while the number of trees recorded will continue to grow, the data is not an absolute record of all the significant vegetation in the shire.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

The Shire requires Bushfire Management Plans to contain information that ensures key environmental features such as habitat trees are identified and protected.



Fire Management Plans approved since 2013 (purple) also fulfil a role in identifying and protecting significant vegetation on a site specific basis

The Environmental Officers are involved in reviewing Bushfire Management Plans for structure plans and subdivisions, and providing advice to Shire Planning Officers and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). The WAPC is the decision maker for structure plans and subdivisions, and will make decisions after receiving recommendations from a range of other agencies as well as the local government.

For smaller scale developments, the environmental features that were mapped during Environmental Asset Inspections or noted during site visits with bushfire planning consultants are recorded in the Bushfire Management Statement and on site plans.

Environmental protection provisions within the planning system are necessarily a balance between private property development rights and community aspirations. The incorporation of LNA and native vegetation protections within the Local Planning Strategy and LPS4 was the primary aim of the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 and this has been achieved. Consideration of the natural environment has been successfully integrated into local planning practice.

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Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

Local Planning Scheme No. 4 provides for LNA mapping to be updated based on landowner requests, or other investigations or assessments that the Shire conducts. Currently the mechanism, with LNA mapping as a trigger for requiring planning approval and on-site assessment of environmental values, is working effectively.

Operationally, the Shire's environmental advisory service (including the Environmental Asset Inspections service) has been directed towards planning applications to ensure early intervention and to shape development proposals and conditions of approval to minimise environmental impacts. This has left little time for the Shire's Environmental Officers to be proactive and provide environmental advice to other properties, which could make a significant difference to local biodiversity. A slight increase in Environmental Officer capacity to enable better conservation advice and service to more residents has been recommended.

Overall, the current provisions are considered to have operated effectively to protect vegetation and local natural areas through the local planning framework and no amendments to the Local Planning Scheme No. 4 are recommended at this stage. However, continued advocacy is required for State Government planning practices to better balance bushfire safety with environmental protection.

Management of Conservation Reserves

The fourth goal of the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 was:

4. All Council's Local Reserves for Conservation in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 are actively managed for biodiversity conservation and half of all other Conservation Category LNAs and Protection Category (at least an estimated 2925 ha) are actively managed for conservation.

All Conservation reserves are assessed annually for bushfire hazard and many receive regular weed control treatment, but there is a lack of regular monitoring and mapping of vegetation condition.

The Landcare Team consists of two staff, who are often assisted with weeding, revegetation and other work on reserves by environmental volunteer Friends Groups (who may also belong to broader Catchment Groups crossing local government boundaries). There is support for Friends Groups to prepare grant applications, assisted by the Natural Areas Project Officer (part time).

The Fire Protection Team also consists of two staff, who assess and manage fuel loads across all land that the Shire is responsible for (not just nature reserves). Their primary objective is to reduce fuel loads and improve community safety, but as part of this work they also undertake significant weed control in nature reserves.

Mapping and recording of management issues and interventions, and sharing of information between Shire Services, has been limited by the technology available to staff. The rollout of a more flexible mapping (GIS) system in 2022 should allow for more data collection, sharing and analysis than has been possible in the past.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

Most reserves do not have a management plan, and where management plans exist they are generally dated. Dieback mapping and treatment has been undertaken intermittently, often based on external grants. Feral cats in nature reserves may be trapped and removed by the Shire's Community Safety Rangers, but there has been no coordinated program to trap foxes or other feral animals.

While all Conservation reserves are managed, it is difficult to say that they are all actively managed for biodiversity conservation in a way that adequately addresses all threats to their natural values. In addition, the ecological viability of the network of Conservation reserves long term depends on the management of surrounding land and maintenance of wildlife corridors. Support for private land conservation initiatives including wildlife corridors has been limited.

Protection Categories mapping could not be fully replicated due to changes to land use provisions in the Shire's Local Planning Scheme between 2008 and 2020.

Appendices

Appendix 2: Extent of Native Vegetation Complexes Remaining

The following information was produced by the *WA Local Government Association* as part of a review of LNA protection measures in 2020.

Vegetation complexes with less than 10% of pre-European extent retained and protected at bio-region scale (Swan Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest bioregions) and represented in the Shire include:

- Forrestfield vegetation complex
- Guildford vegetation complex; and
- Swan vegetation complex.

Of these, only Swan vegetation complex has portions protected in the Shire (5% of the pre-European extent in the Shire) (see Table 2 in this appendice).

Of the 18 vegetation complexes represented in the Shire of Mundaring, there are three vegetation complexes which have significant representation in the State's conservation reserves system: Goonaping, Helena 2 and Swamp (all representative of vegetation complexes of the Jarrah Forest bio-region) (Table 1).

Of the vegetation complexes with less than 30% remaining at the bio-region level, the Southern River complex (Swan Coastal Plain IBRA) and Coolakin complex (Northern Jarrah Forest IBRA) are of high priority for conservation as less than 10% being protected in the respective bioregions. Over 60% of the pre-European extent of Coolakin vegetation complex is protected locally and 100% of its mapped extent remains in the Shire (Table 2).

The Southern River vegetation complex, of which 5 hectares remain in the Shire, has no local protection and therefore should be of high priority for future conservation in the Shire. Eight of the vegetation complexes occurring in the Shire are considered not adequately protected at the bioregion scale, with less than 15% of their pre-European extent on lands with formal protection (Table 1).

There are four vegetation complexes with no representation on lands providing formal protection in the Shire of Mundaring, including the already mentioned regionally significant vegetation complexes: Forrestfield, Guildford and Southern River. The fourth vegetation complex with no local protection is Yalanbee 6. While 100% of the pre-European mapping of Yalanbee 6 vegetation complex remains in the Shire, it is retained on privately owned land zoned Rural in the MRS and Public Purposes in LPS4.

¹ Retention and protection level thresholds of 10% and 30% are applied to the actual vegetation extent statistics with a buffer of about 5% to allow for the limitations of the native vegetation mapping dataset. It is considered that the mapping overestimates the actual native vegetation extent status due to limitations of aerial photography interpretations (inability to separate native and exotic vegetation and map vegetation condition).

²In the Perth Metropolitan Region, the minimal thresholds for representation of vegetation within protected lands is 10% of the pre-European extent for vegetation complexes on the Swan Coastal Plain and 15% of the pre-European extent for vegetation complexes in the Jarrah Forest.

Appendices

Appendix 2: Extent of Native Vegetation Complexes Remaining

Table 1

Shire of Mundaring vegetation complexes and their retention and protection status of vegetation complexes at the bioregion scale (Government of Western Australia 2019)
 Orange identifies vegetation complexes protected at less than 10% of their pre-European extent on the Swan Coastal Plain and less than 15% protected in Jarrah Forest bio-region.
 5% buffer is added allow for mapping errors and limitations

Vegetation Complex	Pre-European Extent (ha)	2018 Extent (ha)	% Remaining	Current Extent Protected (IUCN I-IV) for Conservation (ha)	Current percentage remaining within lands Protected (IUCN I-IV) for Conservation (%)	Protected via Shire of Mundaring LPS Conservation reservation-2020 extent (ha)	Current percentage of regional extent protected with contribution via local protection in the Shire of Mundaring
Swan Coastal Plain							
Guildford Complex	90,513.1	4,607.91	5.09	239.45	0.26	0	0.26
Swan Complex	15,194.1	2,062.03	13.57	56.54	0.37	0	0.37
Forrestfield Complex	22,812.9	2,803.36	12.29	313.01	1.37	0	1.37
Southern River Complex	58,781.5	10,832.18	18.43	691.69	1.18	0	1.18
Jarrah Forest							
Cooke, Ce	36,779.3	30,304.20	82.39	6,859.00	18.65	47.71	18.78
Coolakin, Ck	163,991.7	64,204.65	39.15	6,384.23	3.89	196.38	4.01
Darling Scarp, DS1	3,277.96	825.96	25.20	418.03	12.75	0	12.75
Darling Scarp, DS2	32,448.3	13,586.40	41.87	2,489.55	7.67	3.09	7.68
Dwellingup, D2	86,128.3	71,055.96	82.50	16,628.15	19.31	104.11	19.43
Dwellingup, D4	132,415.6	115,661.52	87.35	15,926.50	12.03	2,069.25	13.59
Goonaping, G	27,467.0	21,834.63	79.49	13,905.39	50.63	360.6	51.94
Helena 2, He2	16,339.3	12,984.83	79.47	4,921.85	30.12	0	30.12
Murray 2, My2	59,317.1	40,952.07	69.04	9,426.51	15.89	1,211.43	17.93
Pindalup, Pn	167,151	128,358.24	76.79	23,935.29	14.32	1,115.54	14.99
Swamp, S	53,658.2	40,612.97	75.69	11,687.19	21.78	73.29	21.92
Yalanbee, Y5	126,609.8	83,829.11	66.21	7,694.97	6.08	653.94	6.59
Yalanbee, Y6	197,849	92,080.88	46.54	22,731.08	11.49	0	11.49
Yarraquil 1, Yg1	80,202.95	64,927.06	80.95	7,912.21	9.87	74	9.96

* Excludes Crown Freehold Department Managed Lands that are managed under Section 8A of the CALM Act.

Appendices

Appendix 2: Extent of Native Vegetation Complexes Remaining

Table 2: 2018 vegetation extent by vegetation complexes in the Shire of Mundaring (Government of Western Australia 2019 (columns with grey heading) and WALGA analysis)

Vegetation Complex	Pre-European Extent (ha)*	2018 Extent (ha)	% Remaining in the Shire	Proportion of the Vegetation Complex Mapping extent within each LGA (%)	2005 Extent (ha)	2005-2018 vegetation extent comparison (ha)	Protected on DBCA managed lands (ha) (2020 extent)	Protected via LPS Conservation reservation-2020 extent (ha)	% or pre-European extent protected in the Shire (2008 status in %)
Swan Coastal Plain									
Southern River	31.7	5.3	16.72	0.05	1.86	3.44	0	0	0%
Guildford Complex	127.8	0.9	0.73	0.14	7.06	-6.13	0	0	0%
Swan Complex	252.2	39.2	15.56	1.66	57.7	-18.47	8.52	0.26	4%
Forrestfield Complex	987.4	66.7	6.76	4.33	50.55	16.15	1.28	0	0%
Jarraah Forest									
Cooke, Ce	222.9	168.1	75.40	0.61	174.32	-6.27	78.73	47.71	57%
Coolakin, Ck	321.7	321.7	100.00	0.20	285.84	35.85	0	196.38	61%
Darling Scarp, DS2	1,249.8	779.6	62.38	3.85	699.52	80.07	360.07	3.09	29%
Dwellingup, D2	10,431.7	6,749.0	64.70	12.11	7,497.2	-748.16	2,085.75	104.11	21%
Dwellingup, D4	12,081.6	9,437.1	78.11	9.12	9,596.8	-159.66	819.62	2,069.25	24%
Goonaping, G	460.3	412.2	89.54	1.68	420.04	-7.86	0	360.6	78%
Helena 2, He2	974.5	862.2	88.47	5.96	903.01	-40.82	328.04	0	34%
Murray 2, My2	19,064.3	14,181.6	74.39	32.14	14,739.4	-557.79	3,456.34	1,211.43	24%
Pindalup, Pn	8,676.1	5,311.9	61.22	5.19	5,303.26	8.67	272.41	1,115.54	16%
Swamp, S	193.2	90.7	46.96	0.36	86.85	3.76	0	73.29	38%
Yalanbee, Y5	4,793.8	2,422.8	50.54	3.79	2,372.08	50.67	34.73	653.94	14%
Yalanbee, Y6	118.2	118.2	100.00	0.06	110.1	8.12	0	0	0
Yarragil, 1, Yg1	4,329.7	2,088.3	48.23	5.40	2,323.90	-234.96	475.31	74	13%
Total	64,316.7	43,055.6	67%		44,629.5	-1,549.9	7,920.8	5,909.6	22%

Appendices

Appendix 2: Extent of Native Vegetation Complexes Remaining

Summary of findings

Highest priority vegetation complexes for formal protection in the Shire of Mundaring are:

- Forrestfield
- Guildford
- Southern River
- Swan
- Yalanbee 6.

To date, implementation of the Shire's 2009 Local Biodiversity Strategy contributed to the improved conservation status of the following vegetation complexes:

- Cooke
- Coolakin
- Dwellingup 2 & 4
- Goonaping
- Murray 2
- Pindalup
- Swamp
- Yalanbee 5
- Yarragil 1.

The greatest contribution to the regional protection status via protection of vegetation complexes by the Shire were achieved for Dwellingup 4 and Murray 2 vegetation complexes, increasing the regional protection level by more than 1% of the pre-European extent of these vegetation complexes (Table 1).

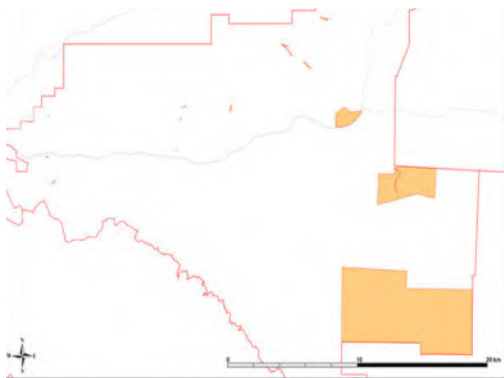


Figure 1: Additional LNA (Conservation in 2020 not mapped as LNA in 2009 Local biodiversity Strategy)

However, of the 18 vegetation complexes mapped in the Shire of Mundaring, only three are adequately represented on lands providing long-term protection (Goonaping, Helena 2 and Swamp).

These findings point to gaps in how the Local Biodiversity Strategy Conservation Priorities criteria consider vegetation complexes. The criteria does not consider local level of protection of representative vegetation types in the Shire and thus conservation priority of Yalanbee 6 vegetation complex with no formal protection in the Shire is dependent on the presence of other criteria such as threatened species. Yalanbee 6 is also not adequately protected at the regional level and in 2008 was not mapped as an LNA in the Local Biodiversity Strategy.

The significant increase in the overall area classified as LNA in 2020 is due to changes in land use classification in the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) since 2008, and inclusion of lands reserved Parks and Recreation in the MRS but not managed by DBCA. One of the largest additions is over 9,000 hectares currently zoned Rural in the MRS that were in 2008 mapped as State Forest, Other DBCA managed lands and Water Lands (Figure 1).

When compared with the 2020 WALGA LNA, the proportion of LNAs meeting Priority 1 criteria decreased since 2008 and the area of LNAs meeting Conservation Priority 2 criteria increased.

The main contributing factor to this is the increased fragmentation of native vegetation in the Shire, resulting in less LNAs mapped as habitat (LNAs larger than 10 ha separated by 8m from another patch of vegetation).

Appendices

Appendix 3: Wildlife Corridor Network Maps

Regional Ecological Linkages were previously identified by the Perth Biodiversity Project, to connect regionally significant natural areas across the Perth Metropolitan Region.

Local wildlife corridors have been mapped to complement the Regional Ecological Linkages and together these will collectively be considered as the 'wildlife corridor network'. The local wildlife corridors are a composite of major watercourses (better vegetated higher order watercourses, mapped as part of the concurrently developed Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy) and other links between locally significant natural areas.

The major watercourses connect to many dams and water bodies, which are known to be important biodiversity refuges. Dams, other water bodies and major watercourses will also be significant refuges during future drought and heatwaves.

The additional corridors were identified using a least-cost path method identified by consultants, using origins and destinations based on Shire managed conservation reserves with at least 10ha of native vegetation and logical connections to national parks and other state lands. Access to a native vegetation dataset called 'Urban Monitor' was provided via a research collaboration agreement with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). DBCA staff also participated in reviews of draft mapping and suggestions for improvement.

The scoring for the least-cost path method was revised after a round of draft corridors were reviewed by members of the Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee.

A high score was added to buildings (using a 20m buffer) to reflect the impact of people, pets, vehicles and fences associated with building density. The revised scoring (see Table 1 on following page) was used to identify terrestrial corridors in addition to the major watercourses.

A width of 40m was used for local wildlife corridors as in many cases this is the maximum width of the riparian vegetation, multi use reserve, or distance between buildings.

The functional width of local wildlife corridors will obviously be wider where there is more remnant vegetation, and particularly where the corridor is shown passing through a local reserve it is the whole of the reserve which should be considered as effectively part of the wildlife corridor network.

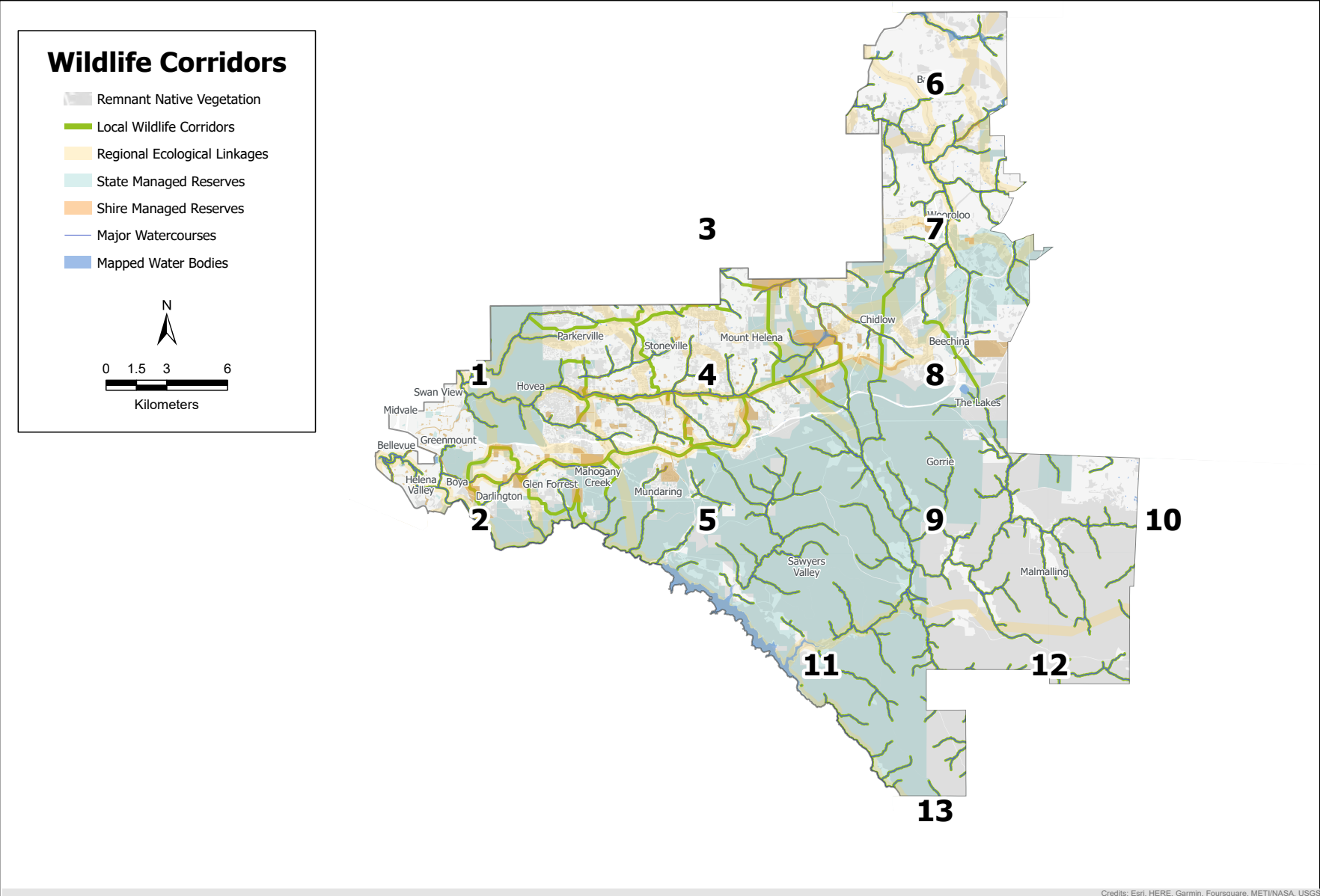
Future revisions of the wildlife corridor mapping may use different source datasets for native vegetation and natural areas, particularly if State Government agencies improve the collection and sharing of remote data for this region.

It must be emphasised that the wildlife corridor mapping provides a mechanism for focussing attention and effort on areas that provide critical support for biodiversity, but cannot and do not include all wildlife movement pathways or important areas of habitat.

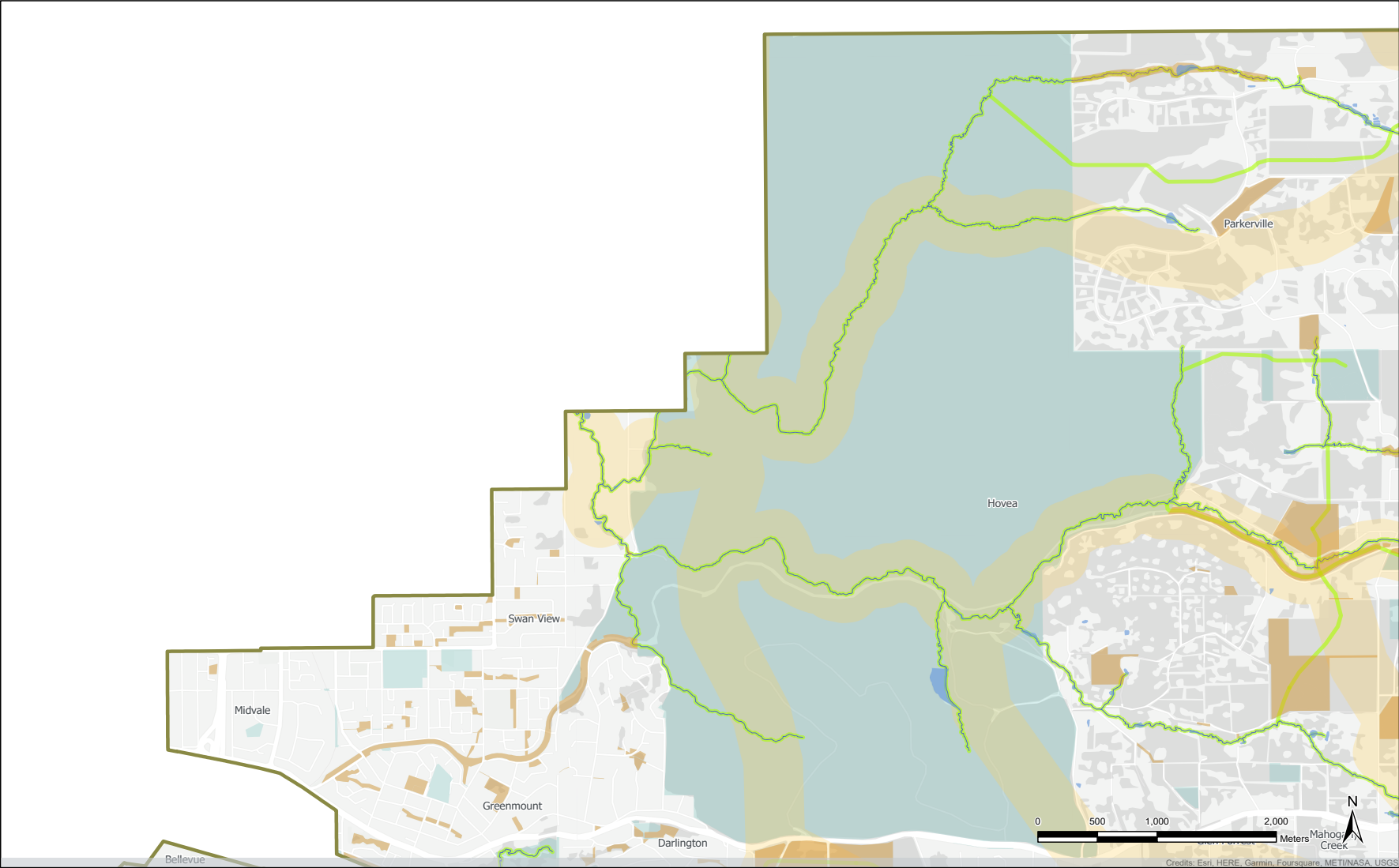
Appendices

Appendix 3: Wildlife Corridor Network Maps

Layer/Features	Cost
Roads	
Minor, Track	70
Freeway, State Highway, Main, Laneway, National Highway	100
Streams	
LiDAR derived streams. Order 1 and 2 removed, 3 to 9 included.	2
Metropolitan Region Scheme	
Parks and recreation	5
Parks and recreation - restricted public areas	5
State Forests	5
Waterways	5
Primary regional roads	100
Public purposes - prison	100
Railways	100
Local Planning Scheme	
Conservation	5
Recreation	20
Residential	75
Rural residential	20
Rural small holdings	20
Development	50
Public Purposes	60
General Agriculture	30
Local Centre	100
Special Use	30
Town Centre	100
Service commercial	100
Light Industry	100
No zone	95
Important Local Roads	85
Other local roads	75
Urban Monitor	
Native vegetation	0.5
Building Footprints	
Buffered to 20m	100



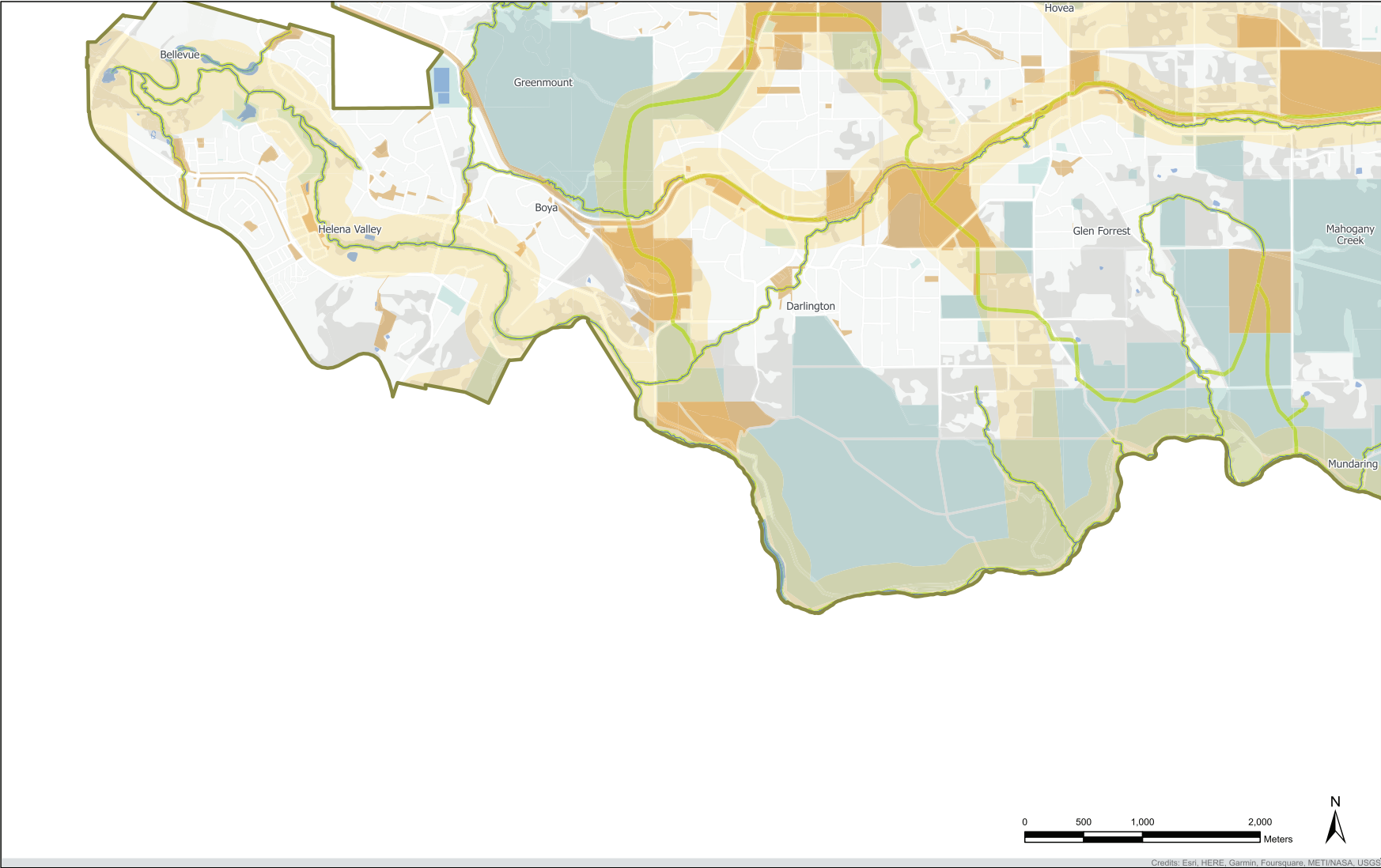
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Wildlife Corridors Map 1

3/10/2022

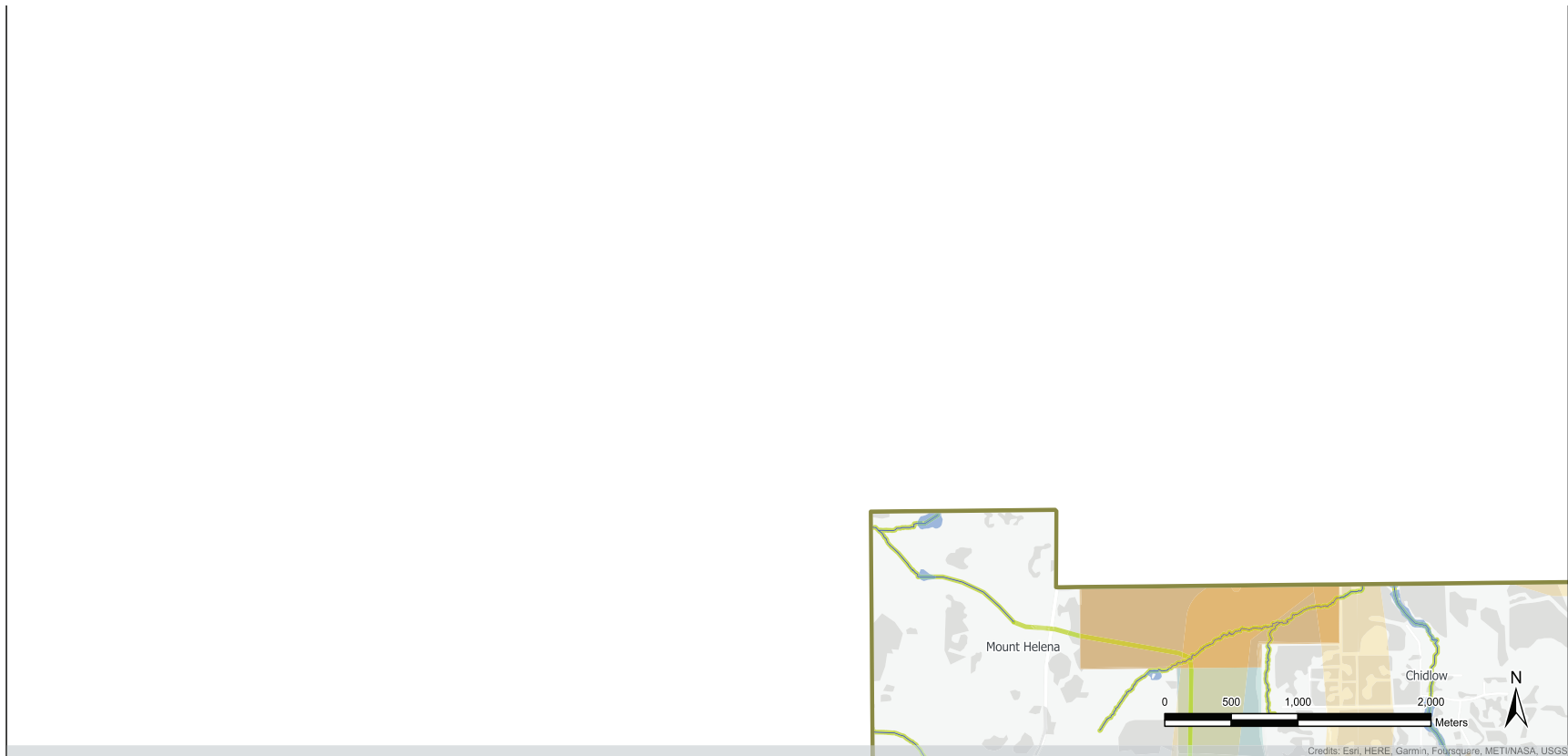
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 2

3/10/2022

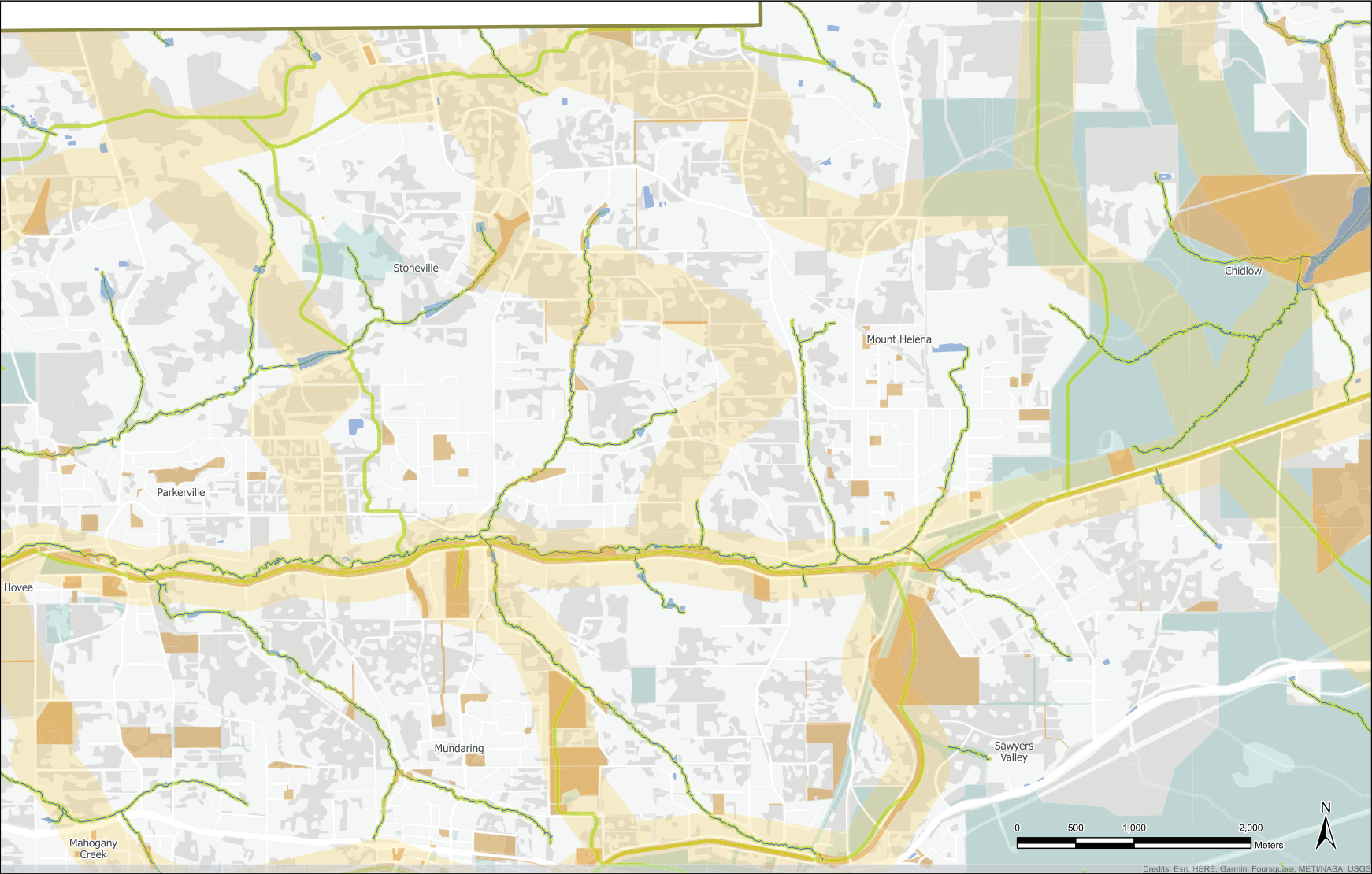
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Wildlife Corridors Map 3

3/10/2022

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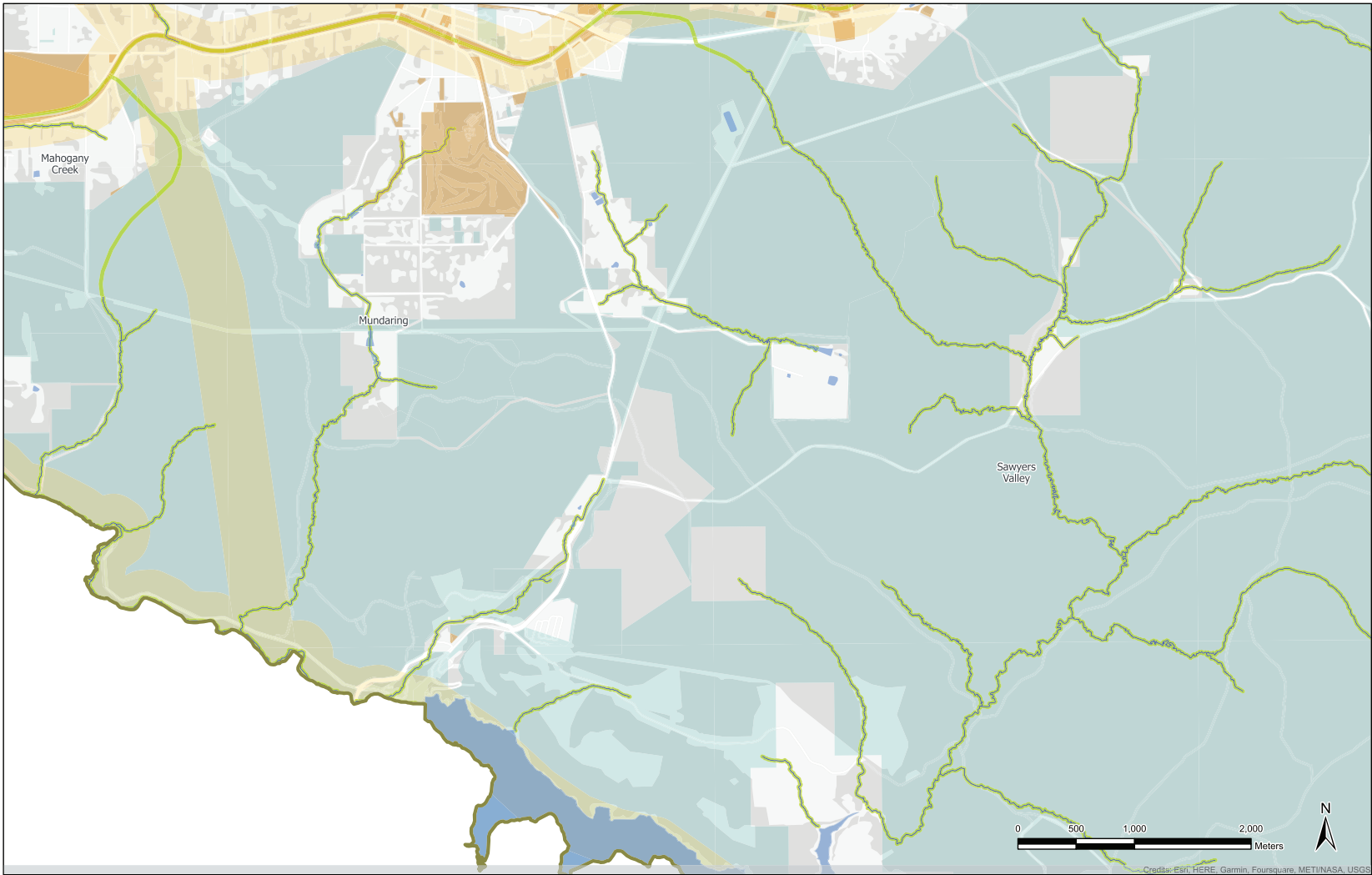
Wildlife Corridors
Map 4

3/10/2022

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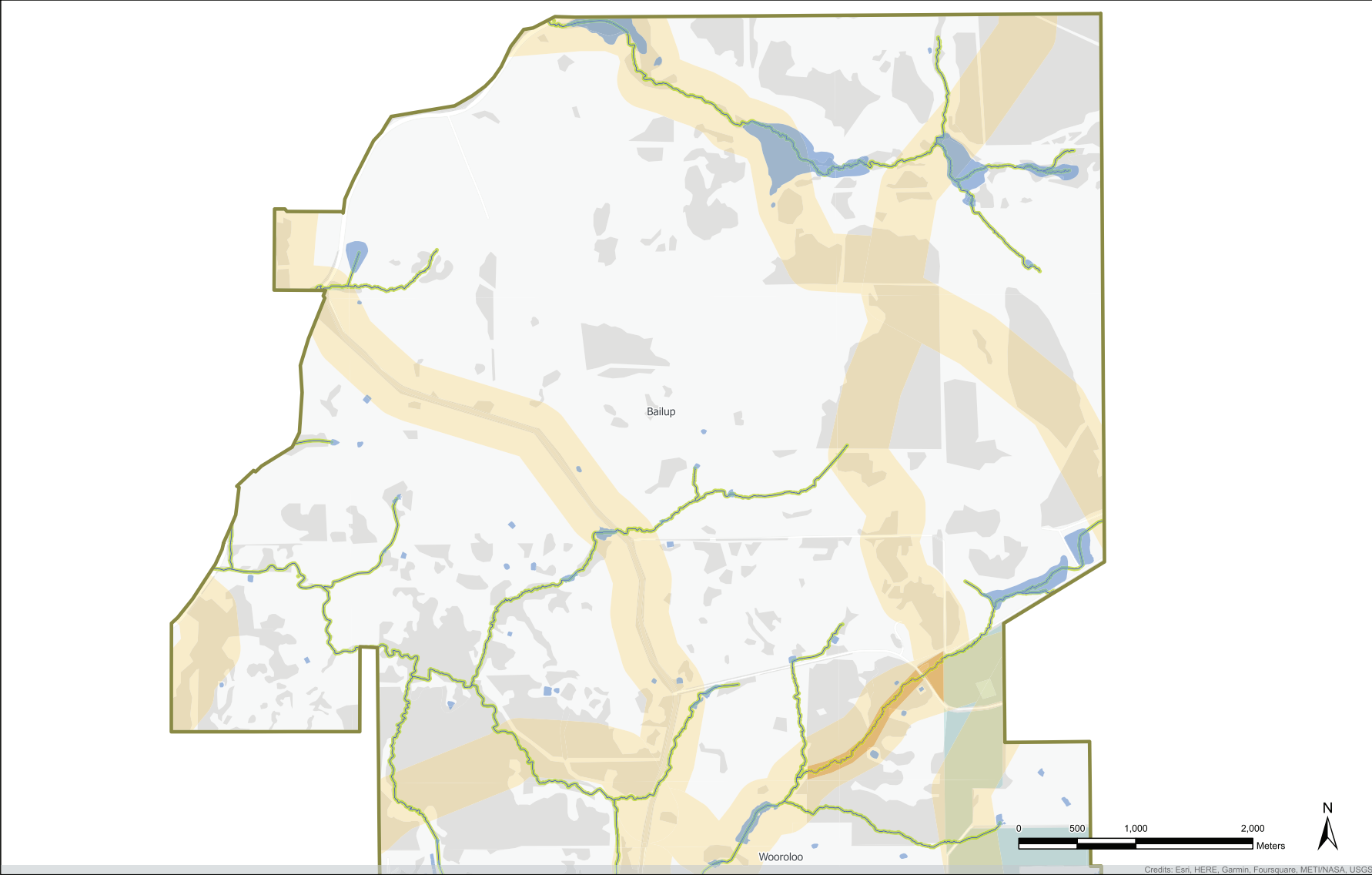
Shire of Mundaring Local Government Strategy 2020 - 2030



Wildlife Corridors
Map 5

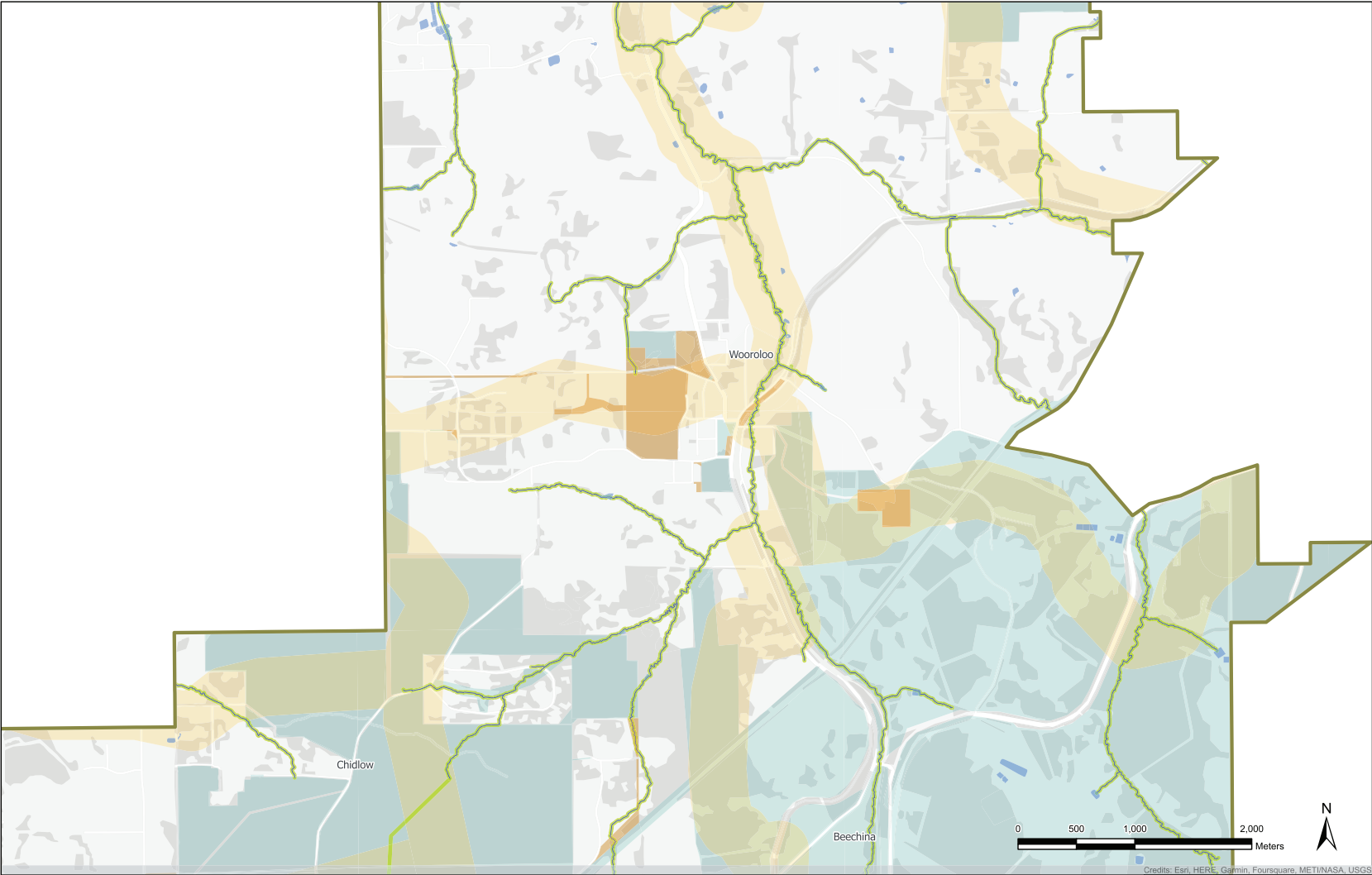
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 6

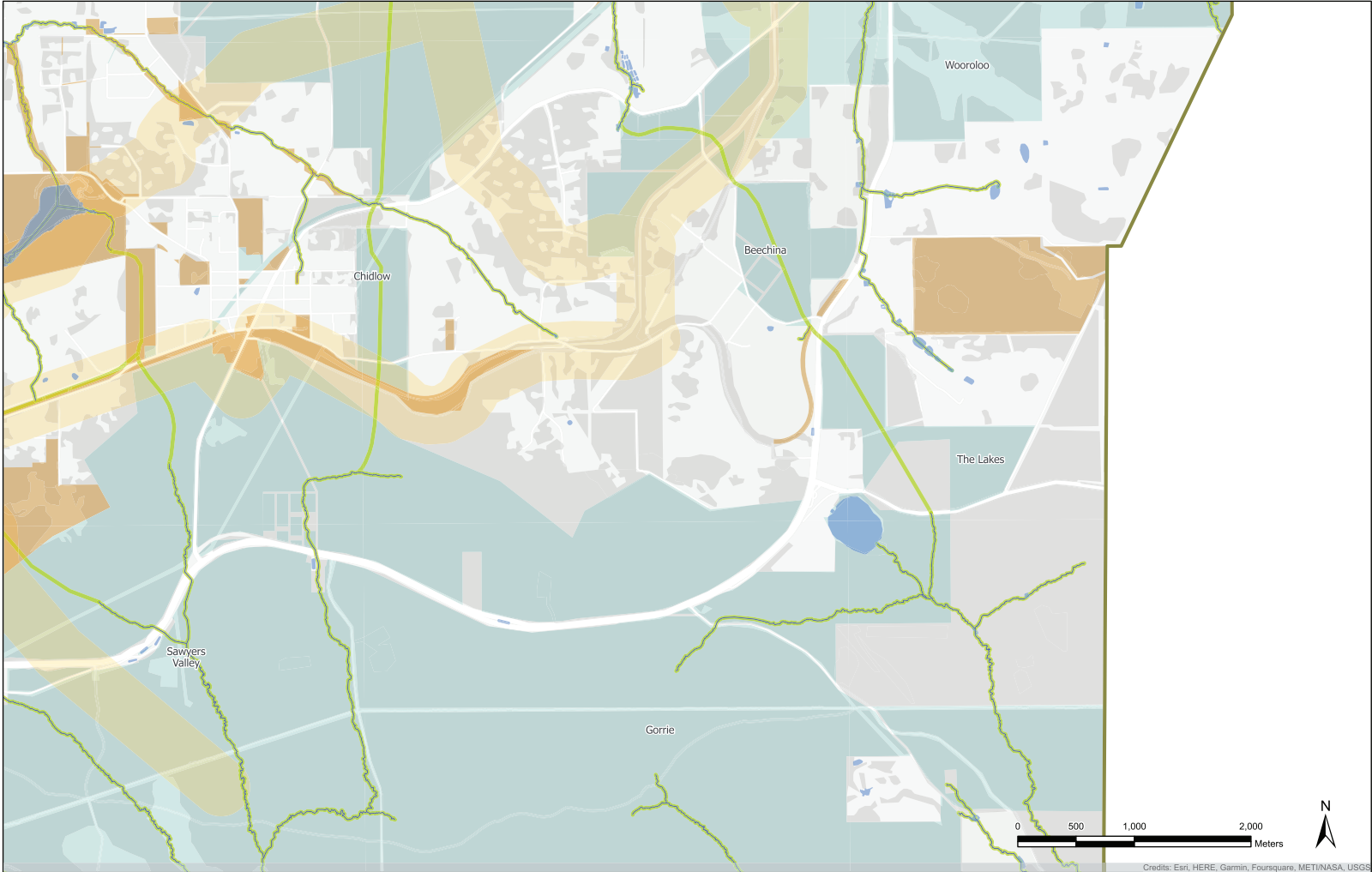
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 7

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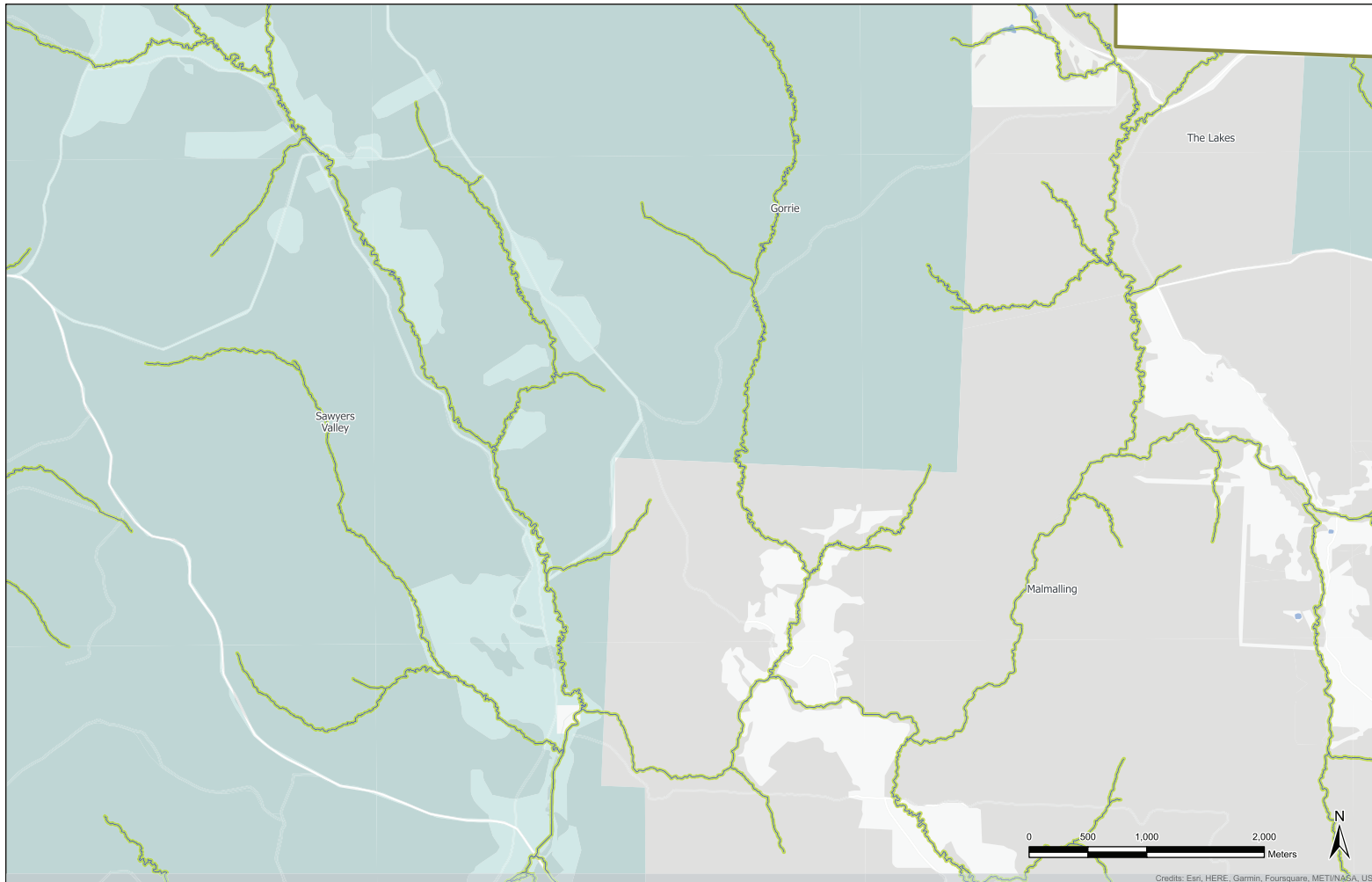
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Wildlife Corridors Map 8

3/10/2022

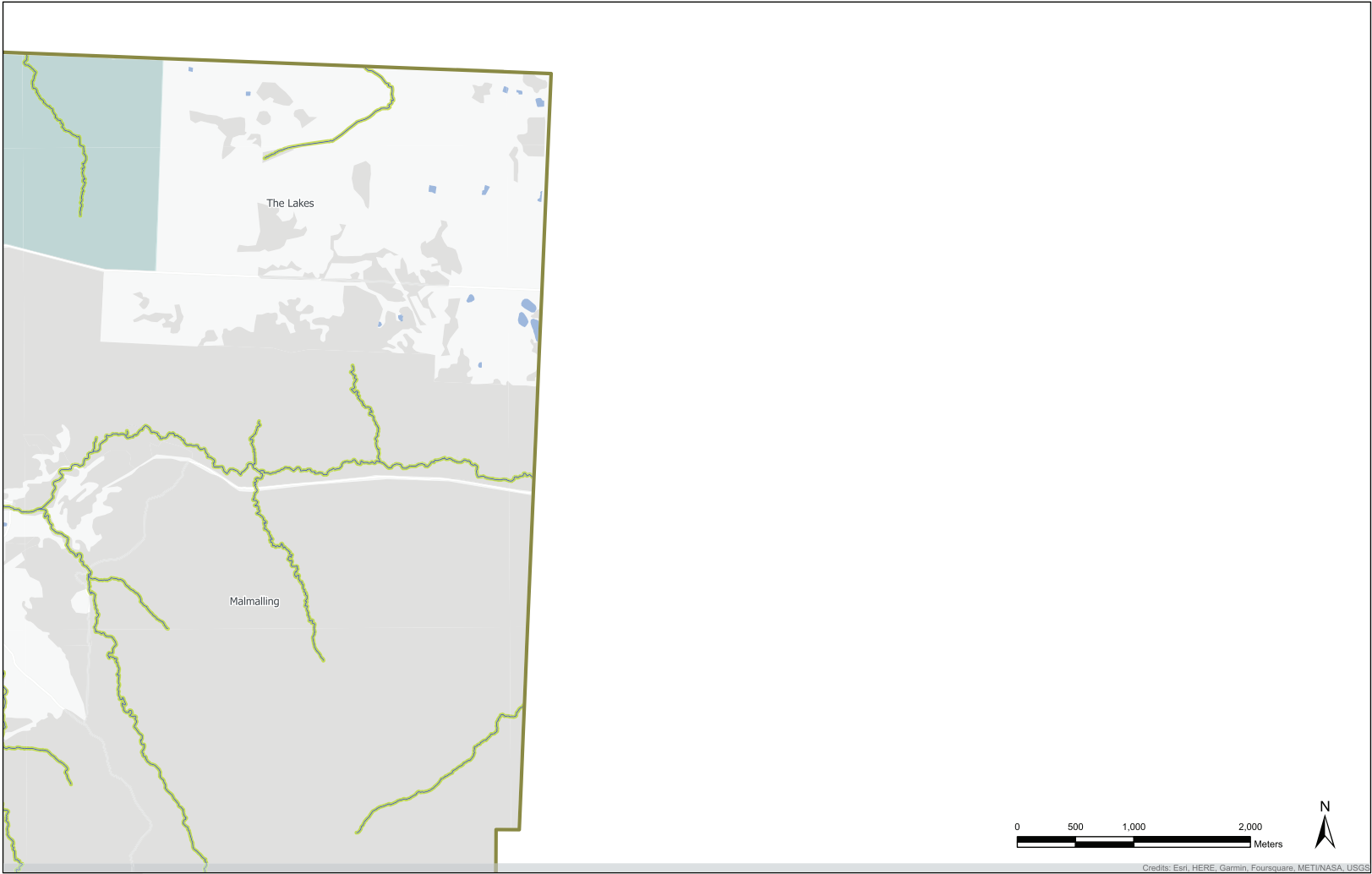
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Wildlife Corridors Map 9

3/10/2022

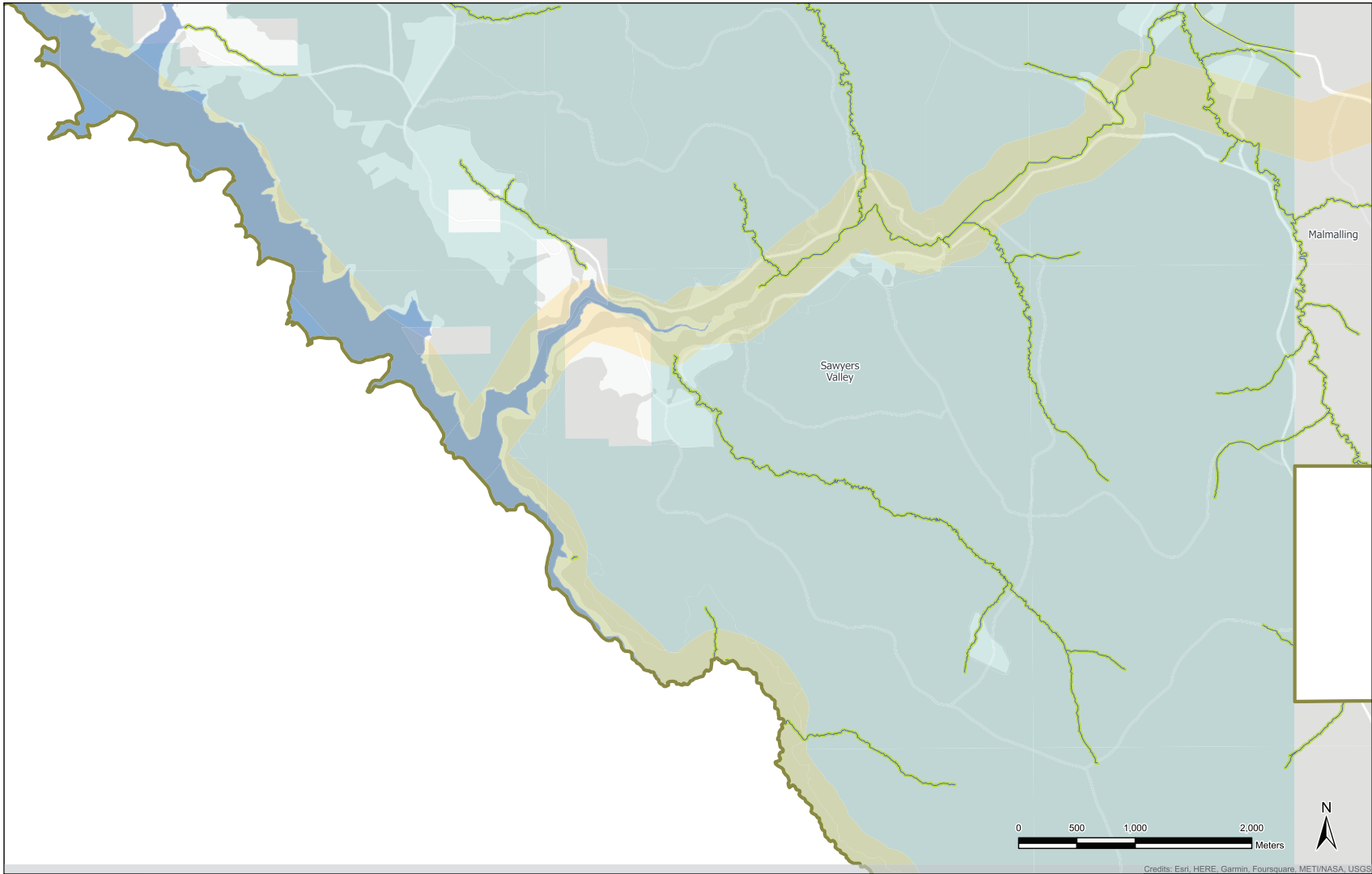
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 10

3/10/2022

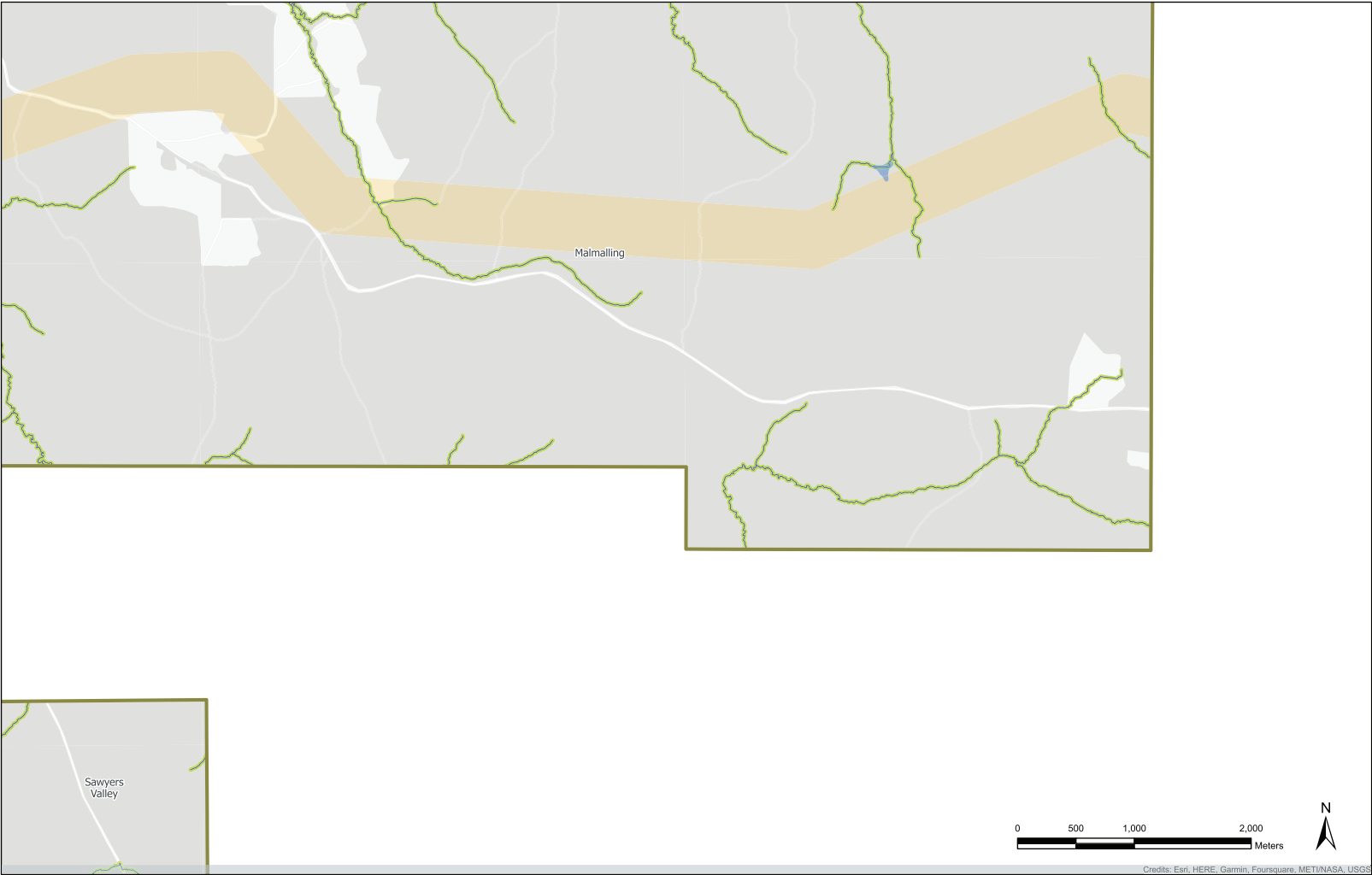
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 11

3/10/2022

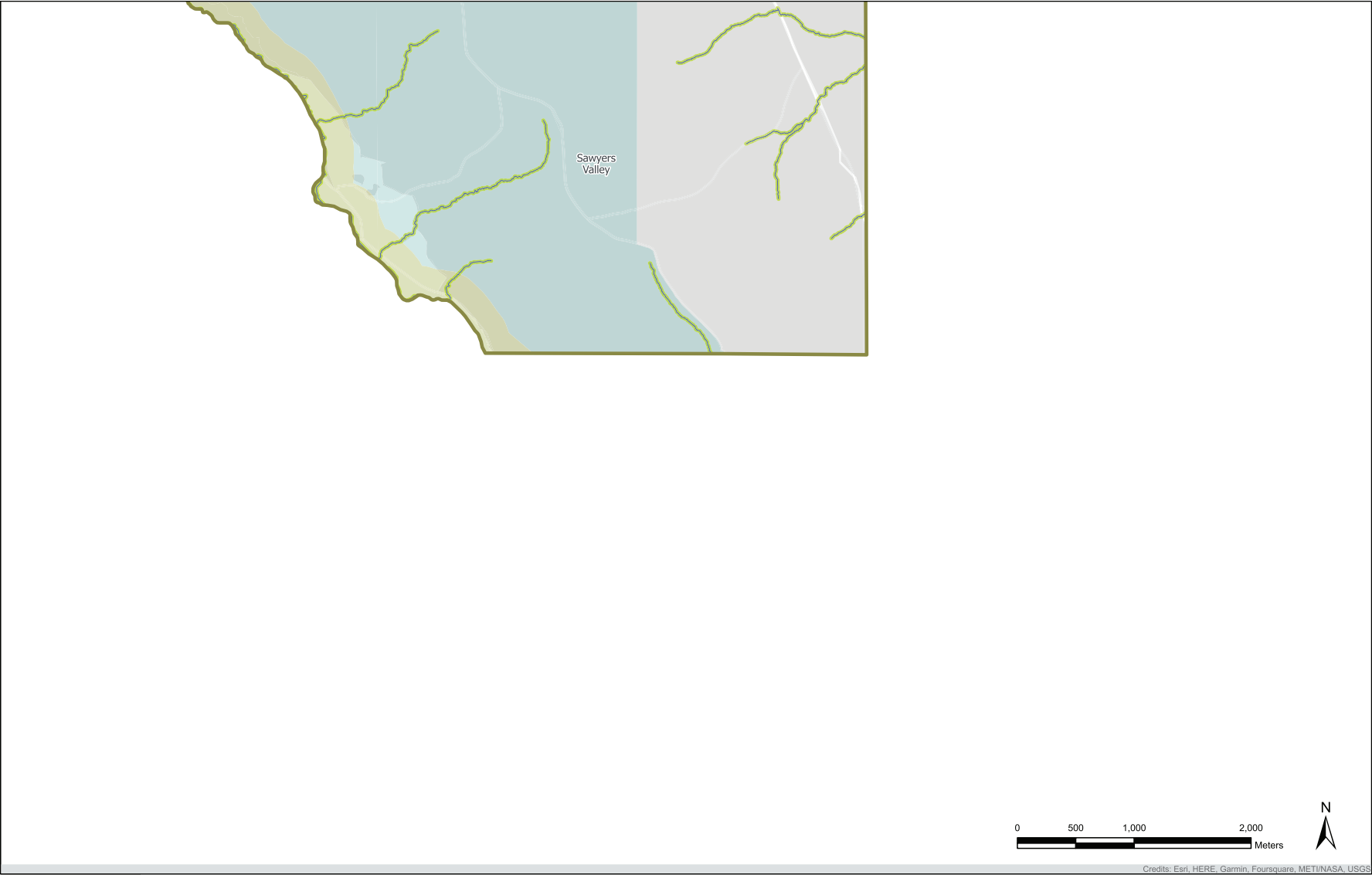
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 12

3/10/2022

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Wildlife Corridors
Map 13

3/10/2022

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Appendices

Appendix 4: Threatened Fauna List

Below is a list of specially protected fauna that may be found within the Shire of Mundaring. This species list was compiled using species listed under the WA *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the national *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), as obtained in 2023 for the Shire of Mundaring region.

Please note: It is very likely there are more species that would meet the criteria for protection under State or Commonwealth environmental legislation, but have not yet been identified or adequately studied. As the protected species listed under these Acts are reviewed their status may change. For the current species status and most recent lists, please refer to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) website for the EPBC Act List of Threatened Fauna and WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction (DBCA) website for the Biodiversity Conservation Act Threatened and Priority Fauna List.

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act Status (WA)	EPBC Act Status
Mammals			
<i>Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi</i>	Woylie, Brush-tailed bettong	Critically endangered	Endangered
<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i>	Black-flanked rock-wallaby, Black-footed rock-wallaby, Moororong	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Chuditch, Western quoll	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>	Western Ringtail possum, Ngwayir, Womp, Woder	-	Critically Endangered
<i>Phascogale calura</i>	Red-tailed phascogale, Kenngoor	Conservation Dependent	Vulnerable
<i>Isoodon fusciventer</i>	Quenda, Southwestern brown bandicoot	Priority 4	-
<i>Falsistrellus mackenziei</i>	Western false pipistrelle, Western falsistrelle	Priority 5	-
<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>	Water-rat, Rakali, Moyitj	Priority 6	-
<i>Notamacropus eugenii derbianus</i>	Tammar wallaby	Priority 7	-
<i>Notamacropus irma</i>	Western brush wallaby	Priority 8	-
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger</i>	South-western brush-tailed phascogale, Wambenger	Conservation Dependent	-

Appendices

Appendix 4: Threatened Fauna List

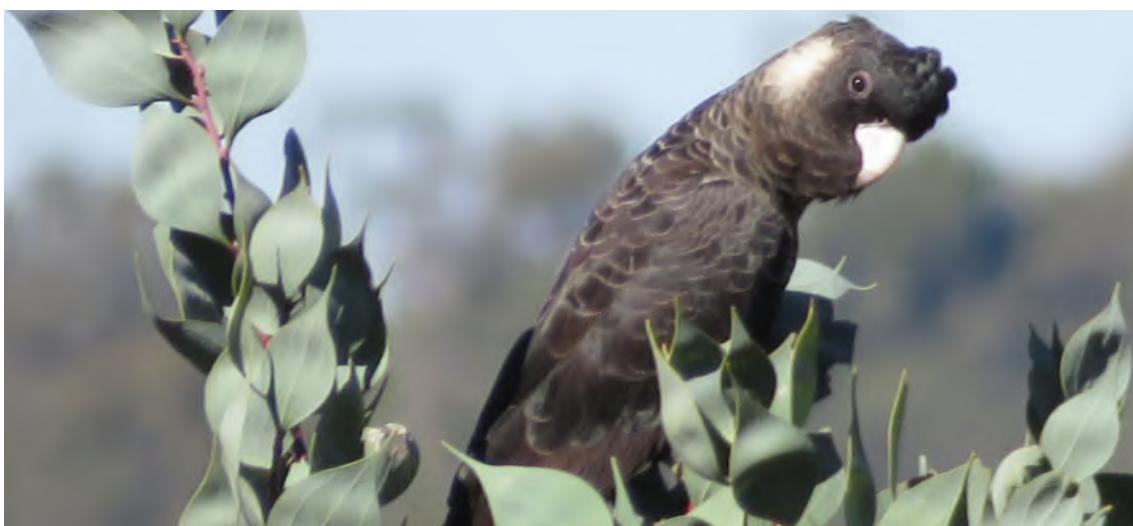
Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act Status (WA)	EPBC Act Status
Reptiles			
<i>Acanthophis antarcticus</i>	Southern death adder	Priority 3	-
<i>Ctenotus delli</i>	Dell's skink, Darling Range southwest ctenotus	Priority 4	-
Invertebrates			
<i>Westralunio carteri</i>	Carter's freshwater mussel	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Birds			
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian bittern	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew sandpiper	-	Critically Endangered
<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii naso</i>	Forest red-tailed black cockatoo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern curlew, Far eastern curlew	-	Critically Endangered
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian painted snipe	-	Endangered
<i>Calyptorhynchus baudinii</i>	Baudin's cockatoo	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>	Carnaby's cockatoo	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine falcon	Specially Protected - OS	-
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed duck	Priority 4	-
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	*Fork-tailed swift	Specially Protected - IA	Threatened

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Appendix 4: Threatened Fauna List

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act Status (WA)	EPBC Act Status
Birds			
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	*Ruddy turnstone	Specially Protected - IA	-
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	*Glossy ibis	Specially Protected - IA	-
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	*Crested tern	Specially Protected - IA	-
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	*Grey wagtail	-	Threatened
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	*Common sandpiper	-	Threatened
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	*Sharp-tailed sandpiper	-	Threatened
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	*Pectoral sandpiper	-	Threatened
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	*Osprey	-	Threatened
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	*Common greenshank	Specially Protected - IA	Threatened

* Migratory bird species



Appendices

Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

This summary of fire risk and fire ecology was prepared for the Shire of Mundaring by Bushfire Safety Consulting (2022).

Fire is a key threatening process that can affect the Shire's reserves and other natural areas. The Shire of Mundaring is responsible for a large number of reserves relative to its population, and management decisions around fire mitigation is primarily guided by the staff and resources available to undertake the work.

When planning for bushfire risk mitigation, it is also important to consider conservation priorities, especially at a time when the community is increasingly focused on the risks posed by fire in a drying climate. Although naturally occurring fires and prescribed burning can be important and essential drivers of ecosystem structure and function, they can also threaten biodiversity in some circumstances.

As no single fire regime is optimal for all organisms at any scale, a sustainable fire management approach should ideally focus on ecological and protection goals in order to optimise outcomes.

Increasingly, land managers across Australia are adopting a more nuanced approach to bushfire mitigation through seeking a greater understanding of the impacts of fire on biodiversity. Ecological bushfire management is an approach that identifies fire regimes appropriate for the maintenance of broad biodiversity values and protection of life and property.

Ecological bushfire management practices incorporate an evidence-based, adaptive management approach that is guided by prevailing resources, climate, biodiversity requirements and community expectations.

Ecological bushfire management has the dual purpose of reducing bushfire risk to life and surrounding assets, while maintaining or improving the ecological values of natural areas. It can provide best practice strategies and techniques related to bushfire risk and environmental management based on current knowledge and scientific research. This approach also considers long term responses of local native flora and fauna to fire, which is used to inform ongoing management decisions.

Ecological bushfire management principles can be applied in areas where biodiversity issues are considered a high priority within fire risk planning.

Further, they can also be applied in a manner consistent with the aims and objectives of local, State and National bushfire legislation, policy documents and guidelines.

Fire and native plants

Fire can benefit plants adapted to fire in many ways, including by allowing a greater amount of light to reach leaves, reducing competition for water, and by creating relatively nutrient rich ash beds for seed germination. Some species can benefit more than others in this process.

However, fire can also cause deleterious effects to fire adapted species if time between fires is too short to allow for adequate recovery since last fire.

For example, species that regenerate from soil or cone stored seed need to mature and set seed before the subsequent fire or else there is a risk they will become locally extinct from the area (Burrows 2008).

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Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

Canopy species present at the site, Marri and Jarrah, can take up to 4 years to flower post fire due to the energy demands of resprouting. The fire response of the listed threatened species *Acacia aphylla* is generally unknown, although it is thought to regenerate from seed after fire (DEE 2008).

Little is known about the frequency of fire to which the northern Jarrah forest ecological community has adapted. A study examining fire scars on Balga (*Xanthorrhoea pressei*) in the Perth hills concluded that in the 150 years prior to European settlement, plants had been burnt on average every 50 years, increasing to once every 10 years on average post settlement (Lamont & Downes 1979).

Burrows, Ward & Robinson (1995) found evidence of fire injury on Jarrah to be about 81 years pre-European settlement, and every 17 years on average after colonisation.

They postulate that frequent low intensity burns predominately occurring during summer and autumn, lit by Aboriginal people managing the land prior to European colonisation, resulted in overall less high intensity fires resulting in much reduced fire injury on Jarrah.

In addition, Burrows (2008) states that in many south-west ecosystems, species are likely to be lost from plant communities when fire intervals exceed 35 to 40 years due to limits to the survival of seed stored in soil over time, however there has been little research into seed bank longevity or the vegetation composition of regenerating plant species in long unburnt forests post fire.
Fire and native fauna

Fire can benefit some animal species by resulting in an increase in regenerating food sources, such as new leaf growth and increased nectar availability from post-fire flowering of some plant species. Decreased plant cover can also increase hunting success for predators such as owls and eagles.

High intensity fires have been shown to increase the formation of tree hollows over time which benefits animals that require hollows for breeding (Inions et al. 1989). However, fire can also negatively affect some animal species as a result of a lack of mobility to escape the fire, habitat cover to protect from predators post-fire, and suitable food sources and habitat structure immediately after fire (Hussey & Wallace 2009).

Low intensity fires can potentially lead to a reduction in the number of fallen logs that can be used as habitat within the burnt area, without creating new ones to replace them (Inions et al. 1989). Reduced fire intervals can lead to the loss of animal species from an area, particularly where there are no unburnt patches within or nearby to assist recolonization or provide cover. For example, Honey Possum populations have been found to require approximately 25 to 30 years to recover from fire, with densities greater in native vegetation with time since last burn longer than this period (Bradshaw & Bradshaw 2017, Wilson et al. 2014, Everaardt 2003).

Populations of Quenda can also be reduced immediately post fire in areas where there are no close unburnt refugia, as they require dense cover from predation and leaf litter for food (Bryant et al. 2017, Haby et al. 2013).

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Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

This has also been observed after fire in populations of small birds (Davis et al. 2016). Too frequent fire that leads to the loss of shrub species can negatively affect the amount of food and habitat sources available for some species of animals, including the threatened cockatoo species (Hussey & Wallace 2009, Woinarski & Recher 1997).

While very little is known about the response to fire of invertebrates, some studies have reported a number of species that occur only in habitat features that are not present for some time after the passage of fire, such as the dead thatch of Balga skirts (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.) which are consumed by fire and take some time to re-establish post fire (Brennan et al. 2010). In addition, some invertebrate species have limited dispersal abilities and so are slower to recolonize post fire than others (Moir et al. 2005).

The inclusion of unburnt areas within bushland can assist in the conservation of many fauna species that utilize the area. The protection of habitat trees and ground logs during hazard reduction burns can assist in providing breeding sites and cover for fauna in the newly burnt areas. Maintaining habitat such as nearby unburnt vegetation cover, including the unburnt skirts of *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (Balga), can help protect Quenda and other native fauna that rely on cover, as can implementing feral animal control techniques immediately before and after a fire.

Fire season

The season in which burning occurs is also important to the effect fire has on plant communities. It is widely thought that historically the vast majority of fires, both caused by lightning or lit by aboriginal people, occurred during late summer and autumn (Burrows 2008).

Fires at this time of year can be of a high intensity and result in the deaths of a large number of plant species.

However, fires of this intensity can crack seed cones and break the dormancy of some buried seeds, aiding in the reproduction of obligate seeders. In addition, the fires at this time of year would shortly be followed by winter rains, further assisting regeneration (Hussey & Wallace 2009).

The timing of rainfall is critical in the successful regeneration of plant species after fire. Regenerating plants after a fire in autumn have greater probability of success than after a spring fire as rainfall, optimal germination and growing conditions occur immediately after an autumn fire in the region. Post-fire germinating seedlings in climates with strong seasonal rainfall, such as that experienced in south-western Australia, are more likely to survive when fire occurs just prior to the onset of the wet season (Miller et al. 2019).

In contrast, fires that occur in the middle of winter are of a much lower intensity and leave many unburnt patches. Soil stored seed dormancy is not broken and fire sensitive plants, such as orchids, can be killed above ground. These plants are usually not affected by summer or autumn burns as they have a below ground dormancy period at this time. The heat of the fire lit in spring is usually not high enough to crack soil stored seed dormancy. Although surface seed germination is usually stimulated, that year's seed production is usually destroyed by the fire. Lack of rainfall over summer is thought to favour re-sprouting plants over obligate seeders after a spring burn due to reduced number of seedling survival (Spencer 2018).

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Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

Optimal fire regime

While much still remains unknown about optimal fire regimes for the Jarrah forest, what seems certain is that no one fire regime benefits all organisms or ecosystems present (Burrows 2008, Spencer 2018). Based on this, the current consensus for determining appropriate fire regimes for the conservation of the northern Jarrah forest is to facilitate burns in mosaic patterns through the landscape with different fire frequency intervals.

Ideally these burns should be conducted in a variety of different conditions and of different intensities, with minimum time since last burn corresponding with the time required for all plants species to reach adequate post-fire reproductive capability (Hussey & Wallace 2009). Given that adequate reproductive capability is often unknown, minimum recommended time between burns has been given as twice as long as the period it takes for the slowest known growing seeders to flower (Spencer 2018).

It has been hypothesized based on the current available dataset on plant species responses to fire that a minimum of 6 to 8 years between fires in the northern Jarrah forest would enable the majority of plant species to regenerate (Burrows et al. 2008).

However, the juvenile period in plants of the south-west forest has been shown to be greatly increased in lower rainfall Jarrah forest locations such as at the reserve. In addition, the trend of decreasing rainfall demonstrates the need for conservative estimates of plant maturity when applying current datasets (Burrows et al. 2008).

Factoring in the number of species present for which no knowledge of maturity has been obtained, and the potential delaying effect of changing environmental conditions such as reduced rainfall, more conservative time frames are often recommended to maintain the ecological integrity of ecosystems when HR burning is required for fire management purposes.

There have been numerous cases in the south-west of reduced fire intervals negatively affecting the survival of species (Spencer 2018), and too frequent fire is a common threatening process for many of the south-west rare and threatened species and communities. This is particularly true for the ongoing survival of plant species that rely on soil or cone stored seed to germinate post-fire. In this case, fire intervals need to be greater than the amount of time it takes the plant to mature and produce an effective amount of seed in order to produce replacement plants should they be killed by fire (Burrows 2008).

While most common obligate seeder species in the Jarrah forest have relatively short time to first flowering times of between 3 to 5 years (Burrows et al. 2008), caution must be exercised in correlating flowering with successful seed production. For example, despite flowering only three to four years after a fire, a common plant species of the south-west, Parrotbush (*Banksia sessilis*), was found to set seed only eight years post fire (Hussey & Wallace 2009).

Maximum nectar production was not reached until 12 to 15 years post fire which has further ecological implications for nectar feeding birds and mammals.

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Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

Too frequent fire in fragmented landscapes is often the result of increased ignition sources from nearby urban development in combination with an increase in hazard reduction burning undertaken to reduce bushfire risk to adjacent development. An increased risk of artificial ignition through both unintentional means (car exhaust, discarded cigarette butt, sparks from machinery) and arson increases the risk that any planned hazard reduction burning undertaken will increase fire frequency and result in negative impacts on native vegetation communities present.

While too frequent fire can result in the loss of obligate seeder species from plant communities, very long inter-fire periods may also result in the loss of these species due to senescence. Woody shrub species are generally not as long lived as other plant species and need fire in order to promote regeneration via the germination of canopy or soil stored seed. Low intensity prescribed fire may assist in regeneration of these species if senescence and decline is observed.

Piles of fallen branches and dead plants that are placed away from trees, Balga and large living shrubs may create patches of hot fire that can assist in the regeneration of species that respond well to hot fire. Small areas of prescribed fire within a reserve can also increase the fine grain mosaic of different habitat ages through diversifying the time since last fire (Burrows 2008).

Of the data that has been collected to date, it seems likely that not all species regenerate in response to fire in the same way or at the same time scale, with different species benefitted through either more or less frequent fire.

In the Jarrah forest, Spencer (2018) recommends hazard reduction burning is conducted with minimum fire frequencies of 15 to 25 years, or three to four times the longest known juvenile period of obligate seeder plants that occur.

The longest known juvenile period for an obligate seeder recorded at the site is *Hakea trifurcata*, which has been recorded producing seed for the first time 48 months (4 years) following fire. This would suggest a minimum known fire interval of between 12 and 16 years is suitable for this species (Dec 2011).

Due to the known presence of some animal species that increase in abundance around this time since last fire is reached, most likely in response to the regeneration of habitat structural elements and/ or maximum nectar or seed production in vegetation post fire, retaining some areas of forests with longer fire intervals should be prioritized for conservation where possible.

The relative lack of research into invertebrates, fungi and other lesser known groups that are likely to contain species that require habitat only present in longer unburnt vegetation is also an important factor in conserving Jarrah forest within the landscape past the recommended minimum fire frequency periods. In addition, there is little research into the effects of fire frequencies at the recommended minimum interval on ecosystem resilience, particularly in the presence of human disturbance such as introduced diseases, plants and animals.

A balanced approach

Overall, it seems likely that a diversity of fire frequencies, burn seasons and intensities throughout the landscape is required to maximise biodiversity and the health of forest ecosystems (Spencer 2018). With much still unknown about the effects of fire on ecological communities, monitoring and adaptive management is vitally important for preserving optimal biodiversity in ecological communities through the use or exclusion of fire (DEE 2017). Ongoing monitoring undertaken to observe and react to any decline in species that may occur from the frequency, seasonality or absence of fire in the future is highly recommended.

It is also important to monitor the effects of any fire management actions undertaken in high conservation areas in order to develop site-specific understanding of the responses, as well as to apply a cautionary approach that aims to prevent loss or degradation of the high quality ecological communities.

There is still much to learn about the effects of fire on the flora and fauna found in the Shire. There may be opportunities to partner with state agencies and universities to participate in targeted research to help inform management decisions that aim to both conserve environmental values, while reducing the threat to lives and adjacent assets if a bushfire occurs.

This summary of fire ecology was prepared for the Shire of Mundaring by Bushfire Safety Consulting (2022). Relevant references from their report are below:

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Appendices

Appendix 6: Dieback Management Priorities

Phytophthora Dieback

Phytophthora cinnamomi (*P.cinnamomi*) is an introduced microscopic pathogen that is often referred to as a fungus. While it shares some characteristics of true fungi it is in fact a type of water mould and can survive in both soil and water. Phytophthora Dieback ('Dieback') refers to the disease that can occur when susceptible plants are exposed to *P.cinnamomi*. While some plant species are resistant to the pathogen, others are very susceptible, resulting in decline and death.

P.cinnamomi is present in all States and Territories of Australia where it causes disease in an extremely diverse range of native, ornamental, forestry and horticultural plants. It is believed that *P.cinnamomi* was introduced to Australia by early European settlers importing infested horticultural plants. Since the mid 1960's to early 1970's *P.cinnamomi* has been recognised as a serious pathogen in native ecosystems of Australia.

The pathogen can infect a range of native plants in Southwest WA, predominantly from the *Ericaceae*, *Fabaceae*, *Myrtaceae*, *Proteaceae*, and *Xanthorrhoeaceae* families. Although several *Phytophthora* species occur in Western Australia, *P.cinnamomi* is the most virulent and pathogenic. *P.cinnamomi* can also affect a range of horticultural crops and garden plants including apples, peaches, olives, avocados, camellias and roses. Other species of *Phytophthora* found in WA, such as *Phytophthora multivora*, are less virulent and significantly less widespread than *P.cinnamomi*.

Dieback in Western Australia

Dieback is a significant environmental issue for natural areas between Geraldton in the Midwest and Esperance on the South Coast, and it is widespread in the Southwest region. The pathogen rarely occurs in areas receiving less than 400 mm annual rainfall.

The most recent Western Australian State of the Environment Report lists Dieback as a Priority 1 threat to biodiversity. A recent review of threats to species listed as threatened under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 shows that *P.cinnamomi* is the second greatest invasive species threat in Australia after rabbits.

Dieback is a serious concern in WA for the following reasons:

- Over 1 million hectares of land in south west WA is affected, including many national parks, nature reserves and metropolitan bushland
- 40% of native plant species in the south west (over 2,200 species) are susceptible to the pathogen, including almost 50% of endangered and threatened flora
- Up to 20% of the State's Jarrah forest and up to 80% of the Stirling Range National Park is affected
- Changes in the composition and structure of floral communities resulting from the spread of Dieback have flow-on impacts throughout the ecosystem, including habitat alteration that can negatively affect indigenous fauna populations.
- Dieback can lead to significant soil erosion through the loss of susceptible vegetation as well as increased dominance of Dieback resistant plants such as grasses, rushes and sedges and weeds.

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Appendix 6: Dieback Management Priorities

Local Government agencies are required to manage Dieback Phytophthora Dieback management under several regulatory mechanisms including the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (which lists Phytophthora Dieback as a key threatening process) and the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

How Dieback is spread

Dieback is spread through the movement of water and soil within the landscape. Whilst it is possible for native and pest animals to spread the pathogen, by far the most significant vector of *P. cinnamomi* in the natural environment is human activity. Humans have the capacity to disturb and transport more soil than any other vector, and all human activities carry some likelihood of spreading *P. cinnamomi*.

Major vectors of Dieback include wet soil adhering to vehicle tyres and earthmoving equipment. By far, most of the large areas of infestation that exist today in southern temperate Australia occurred as a result of human activity, often as a direct result of the introducing infested soil or road-building materials to vulnerable uninfested areas. Therefore, access restrictions and quarantine management procedures can be effective tools in reducing the spread of Dieback in natural areas.

Active spread by native and feral animals is difficult and prohibitively expensive to control. Active spread in subsurface water is difficult to control, however, under certain circumstances and to some degree surface drainage can be controlled.

Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to completely eradicate *P. cinnamomi* from an infested site, and there is no evidence to suggest that the pathogen will disappear from a site once it has killed all of the most susceptible plant species. *P. cinnamomi* is thought to be able to survive long-periods of unfavourable conditions through the production of chlamydospores. However, there are still significant gaps in knowledge about the exact mechanisms of long-term pathogen survival.

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Appendix 6: Dieback Management Priorities

Dieback in the Shire

In 2019, the Shire of Mundaring commissioned Dieback consultants to undertake a comprehensive Dieback assessment of 33 priority Shire managed bushland reserves. The objective of the assessment was to confirm and map the extent of Dieback infestation within each reserve and identify Dieback free areas that can be protected from infestation in the long term.

The assessment confirmed the presence of Dieback in varying degrees in all of the reserves except for two (which were deemed to be uninterpretable due to a lack of Dieback indicator species).

Dieback was found to be widespread in the lower slopes, along drainage lines and water-gaining sites in many reserves. Infestations were also frequently mapped along access tracks, trails, firebreaks, old gravel pits and disturbed areas.

To date, a total of 15 reserves have been identified as having uninfested areas which are large enough to be ecologically viable and protectable from Dieback infestation in the medium to very long term (20 years to over 100 years). The assessment recommended a number of actions to prevent Dieback spreading to uninfested areas in priority reserves including:

- Treating the interface of infested and uninfested protectable areas with phosphite (a fungicide that slows the spread of *P.cinmamomi*)
- Review, update and implement management protocols for vehicle and machinery access to reserves

- Review and update Dieback signage in the reserves to delineate infested areas and uninfested areas and provide information for users to assist in preventing further spread
- Revegetate Dieback affected areas with Dieback resistant species or species that have a low susceptibility to *P. cinnamomi* infection. Revegetating areas that are infested or degraded will have a number of benefits including restoration of ecological function, reduced weed invasion, reduced soil erosion, improvement of visual amenity
- Continue to assist Friends groups to be more effective in undertaking conservation works in Dieback affected areas.
- Continue to monitor and map disease activity in priority reserves and treat where required

References:

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Appendices

Appendix 7: Priority Weed Species

It is impossible to eradicate all weed species. Shire resources and community weed control efforts should be focussed on weeds that have worse impacts, including rapid spreading capability, or increasing bushfire risk. The impact and invasiveness of weeds occurring within the Shire of Mundaring has been assessed using:

- the national list of significant weeds (Weeds of National Significance, Weeds Australia, 2019)
- the Western Australian Organism List (WAOL) database, which lists declared pest species classified under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (WA) (DPIRD, 2019)
- the Swan Region impact and invasiveness rating of weeds (DBCA, 2016)
- knowledge and experience of staff working within Shire managed reserves.

Common Name	Species Name
African Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>
Arum Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
Bitou Bush	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera</i>
Black Flag	<i>Ferraria crispa</i>
Blackberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Brazilian Pepper	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>
Coast Teatree	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>
Doublegee	<i>Rumex hypogaeus (Emex australis)</i>
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>
Flaxleaf Broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>
Freesia	<i>Freesia alba x leichtlinii</i>
Fountain Grass	<i>Cenchrus setaceus</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>
Madiera Vine	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>
Narrowleaf Cottonbush	<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>
One-leaf Cape Tulip	<i>Moraea flaccida</i>

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Appendix 7: Priority Weed Species

Common Name	Species Name
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
Perennial Veldt Grass	<i>Ehrharta calycina</i>
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia sp</i>
Tagasaste	<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>
Tambookie Grass	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>
Watsonia	<i>Watsonia spp.</i>
Weedy Wattles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cootamundra • Early Black Wattle • Flinder's Range Wattle • Golden Wattle • Sydney Gold Wattle • Queensland Silver Wattle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acacia baileyana</i> • <i>Acacia decurrens</i> • <i>Acacia iteaphylla</i> • <i>Acacia pycnantha</i> • <i>Acacia longifolia</i> • <i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i>
Wild Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus caryophyllaceus</i> & <i>Gladiolus undulatus</i>



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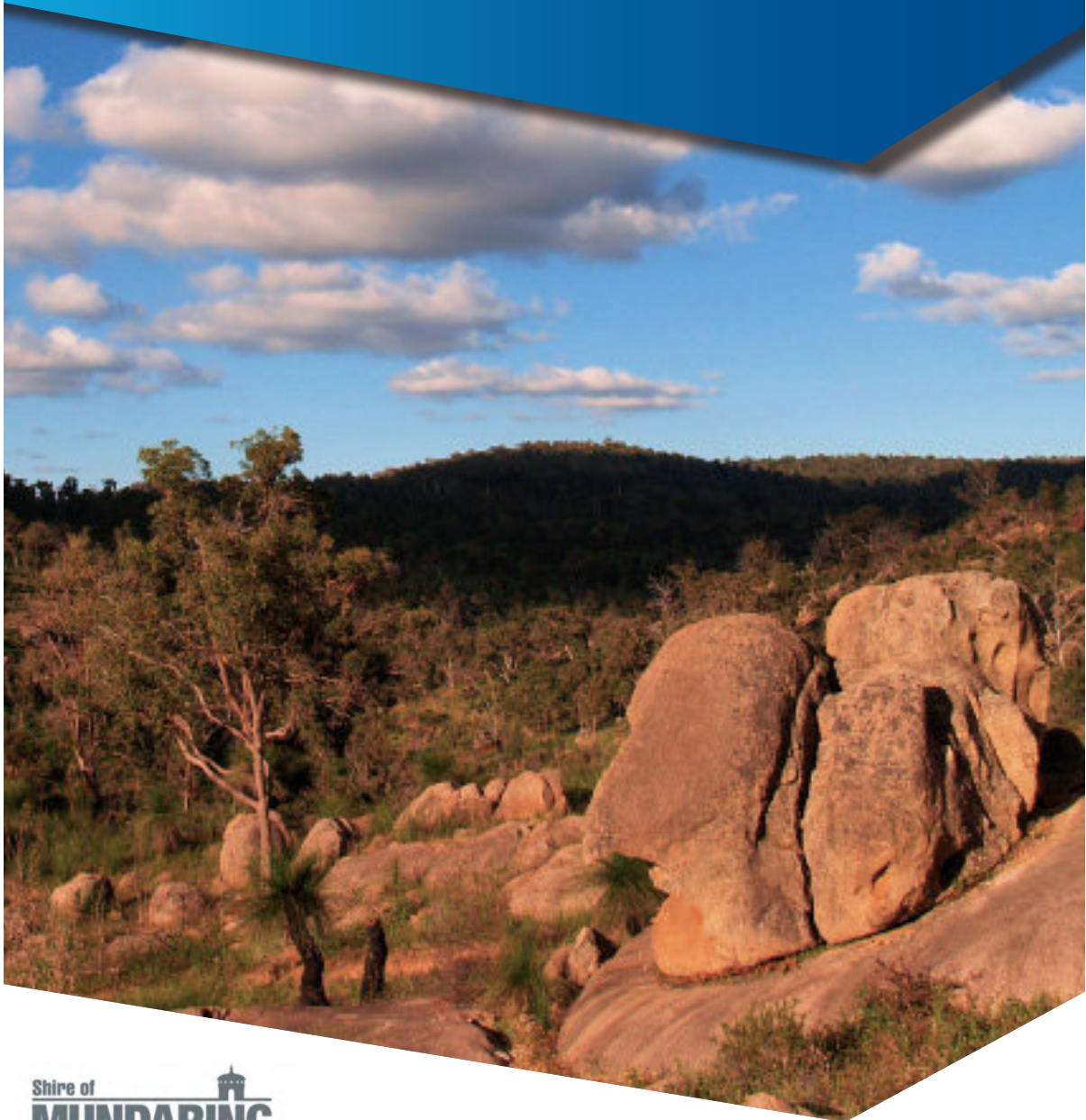
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Local Biodiversity Strategy 2023 - 2030



Draft

Acknowledgement of Country



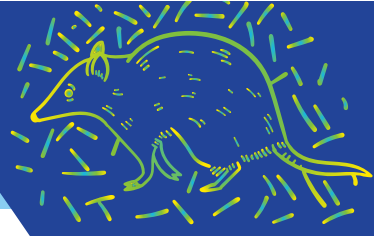
Mundadjalina-k ngala kaditj Noongar moort nidja Wadjak boodjar-ak kalyakool moondang-ak kaaradj-midi. Ngala Noongar Moort wer baalabang moorditj kaadidjiny koota-djinanginy. Ngala Noongar wer Torres Strait Moort-al dandjoo koorliny kwaba-djinanginy. Koorra, yeyi wer kalyakool, ngalak Aboriginal wer Torres Strait birdiya wer moort koota-djinanginy.

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

Images: Front cover: Title John Forrest Vista by Rene Baur

This page: Enchanted by Aaron Cuthbert

Foreword from Shire President



Biodiversity is the diversity of life on earth. Our local biodiversity is the Shire's living landscape, including all native plants and animals.

The health of the natural environment underpins the health and wellbeing of our community, and the strength of our local economy.

This Strategy identifies threats to our local biodiversity including clearing, dieback, invasive species and climate change.

It also identifies ways that the Shire and other custodians of natural areas can help protect our natural heritage for the future.

The Shire cares for important natural areas within local conservation reserves, but they will not be viable in the long term without strong connections to natural areas managed by individual landowners and the State Government.

An important element of this Strategy is the Wildlife Corridor Network which connects important local nature reserves with larger regional and national parks. The Wildlife Corridor Network includes major watercourses as well as local and regional ecological linkages.

These connections across the landscape provide for the continued movement of wildlife to maintain genetic diversity and re-colonise areas after fire, and also allow for pollination and seed dispersal to maintain plant diversity.

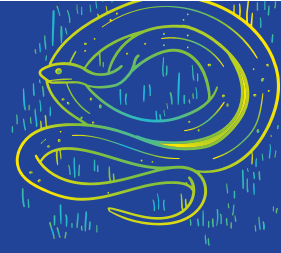
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all community members who provided feedback on the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy. Your insights and ideas have been essential in informing many of the issues and actions addressed in this final document.

It is my great pleasure to present the Shire of Mundaring's Local Biodiversity Strategy 2023 - 2030.



Cr James Martin
Shire President

Executive Summary



The Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy maps a pathway for the Shire to tackle environmental threats, and celebrate and enhance our natural and cultural heritage.

Community surveys repeatedly raise environment as a key priority and this is reflected in the Shire's Community Strategic Plan. Council adopted as a 10 year priority, 'Shire-led conservation, protection and retention of natural areas' and the overall vision for the area as:

'A Place for Sustainable Living'

Executive Summary



Whether it is promoting nature-based tourism or carefully managing bushfire risk to avoid catastrophic wildfires; the Shire's social and economic success is intrinsically linked to a well-managed environment.

The Shire's ability to undertake, assist and advocate for environmental management differs across reserves, verges and privately owned land. The Shire is directly responsible for managing 1,310 hectares of native vegetation, spread over many reserves of various sizes. Integrating bushfire and biodiversity management within our nature reserves provides an opportunity to lead by example and share management approaches with residents, who collectively manage another 6,130 hectares of natural areas on private property.

Maintaining biodiversity values on local reserves and private properties also helps maintain the important wildlife corridor network between national parks. There are 35,000 hectares of native vegetation within the Shire managed by the State Government (and Water Corporation) in national parks, state forests and water catchment.

The United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021 – 2030) aims to address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity decline.

Many of our native species and ecosystems will also be increasingly affected by climate change over the coming decades. At a local level, custodianship of natural areas may include environmental restoration after fire, drought or heatwave impacts.

To add to the complexity, our natural areas are part of an intricate web of life that we are still learning about. It is likely there are still many small species that have not been identified and named, and relatively few have been studied well enough to understand their current habitat and conservation requirements.

The Shire can participate in research, or facilitate connections and sharing of knowledge for better biodiversity conservation.

The Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee assisted in developing this vision for the Shire's new Local Biodiversity Strategy:

Biodiversity and natural areas are protected, connected and cared for through community stewardship and a strong culture of conservation.

A deeper sense of custodianship of land and water will be required, as well as a willingness by all stakeholders to communicate, collaborate and continuously improve land management practices.

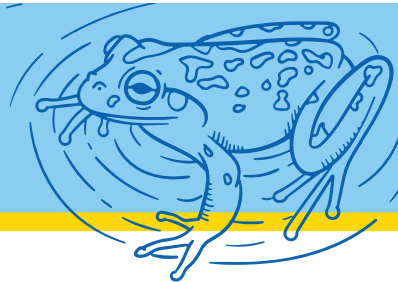


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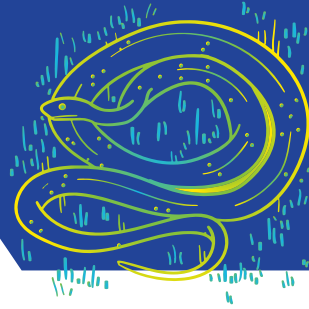


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Introduction



The Shire of Mundaring is located within the south-west Western Australian ‘global biodiversity hotspot’. This means that this region is biologically rich with diverse plants, animals and ecosystems, but also that they are under threat.

The Shire contains significant areas of forested national parks and protected water catchments. This provides important habitat for many native animals – but with a relatively small-dispersed population and rates base, also presents a challenge caring for parks and reserves over a large geographical area.

In most cases there is very limited knowledge of our native animal population, and scarce information about fungi (which play important roles in tree and forest health). By contrast there is extensive mapping of remnant native vegetation, so this is used as the foundation of biodiversity planning in the Perth Metropolitan Region.

Traditional Owners

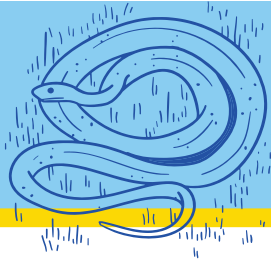
The traditional owners of most of the Shire area are the Whadjuk (Wajuk) Noongar people, with Aboriginal occupancy dating back tens of thousands of years. The north-east part of the Shire extends into Ballardong country. Evidence suggests that forests within the southwest of Western Australia were subject to cool mosaic burns by Noongar people, using fire to carefully shape the forest structure. *It appears some areas were rarely burnt. Natural areas with a range of ages since fire provide more diverse habitats.*

Colonisation removed Noongar people from their traditional lands and prevented the continuation and teaching of cultural practices, which has caused significant loss of knowledge of native plants, animals, and land management.



The AIATSIS Map of Indigenous Australia – southwest Western Australia (from aiatsis.gov.au)

Introduction



Historic Development

European settlement of the area increased from the 1840s. The colonial population was minimal until the 1880’s, with small villages established mainly along the railway line and Great Eastern Highway (formerly the York Road). Significant growth came in the early 1900s, following the construction of the Mundaring Weir.

This continued well after the post-war years, particularly during the 1970s and 1980s.

Development and growth has had a significant impact on biodiversity values. During early settlement, natural biodiversity was treated as both a potential resource and an impediment to opening up productive rural land uses.

Historical aerial imagery from 1961 illustrates the legacy from early colonisation and government policy. When compared to 2020, vegetation canopy density has grown simultaneously as the population density increased. The Shire and other land managers are now left with complex land management issues.



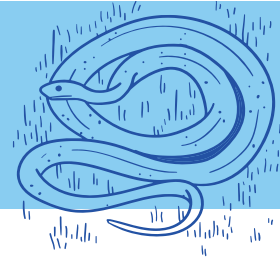
Lacey’s ‘Enterprise Saw Mill’ at Sawyers Valley - 1890s. Photo courtesy of the State Library of WA

The Shire now contains a combination of large areas of untouched or regrowth forest, amongst manicured gardens, lawn and introduced plants that have, in some cases, become invasive species.

Many residents of the Shire have either grown up in the area, or moved for lifestyle ‘tree-change’ reasons. This has also served to reinforce community values about the importance of the environment. Since early settlement, community attitudes have shifted away from exploitation towards celebrating nature and biodiversity.

As climate change intensifies and the threat of bushfire increases, the Shire must continue to reconcile necessary bushfire risk mitigation with biodiversity conservation.

Introduction



Below are aerial images covering the Hovea/ Parkerville area, showing change and development over the past six decades. Watercourses are shown in blue as reference points.

Significant regrowth of native vegetation has occurred in some locations, while the density of settlement has increased significantly. The form of residential and semi-rural subdivision that occurred in past decades would not be permitted under current Western Australian Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines.



**1961 aerial photo -
Hovea/Parkerville**



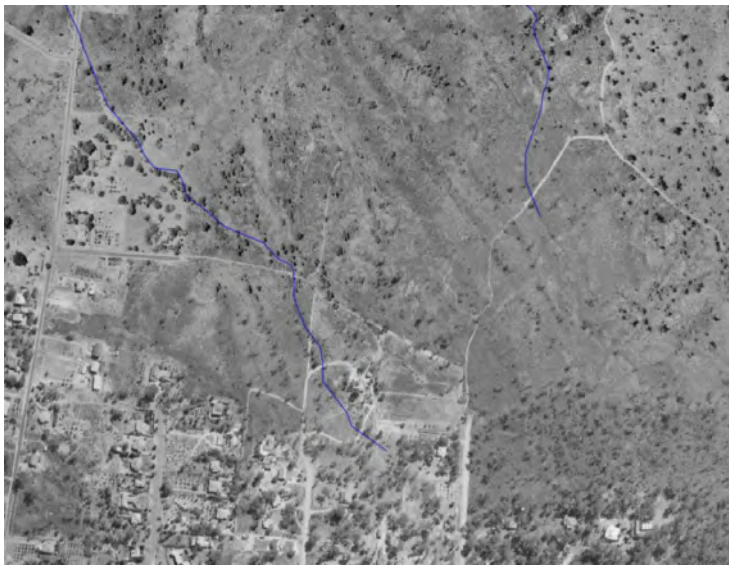
**2020 aerial photo -
Hovea/Parkerville**

Introduction



Below are aerial images covering part of the Swan View/Greenmount area, showing change and development of the past six decades. Watercourses are shown in blue as reference points.

Denser settlement **has been** possible on the coastal plain where lots **were** connected to deep sewerage.



**1961 aerial photo - Swan View
Brown Park to John Forrest
National Park**



**2020 aerial photo - Swan View
Brown Park to John Forrest
National Park**

Introduction

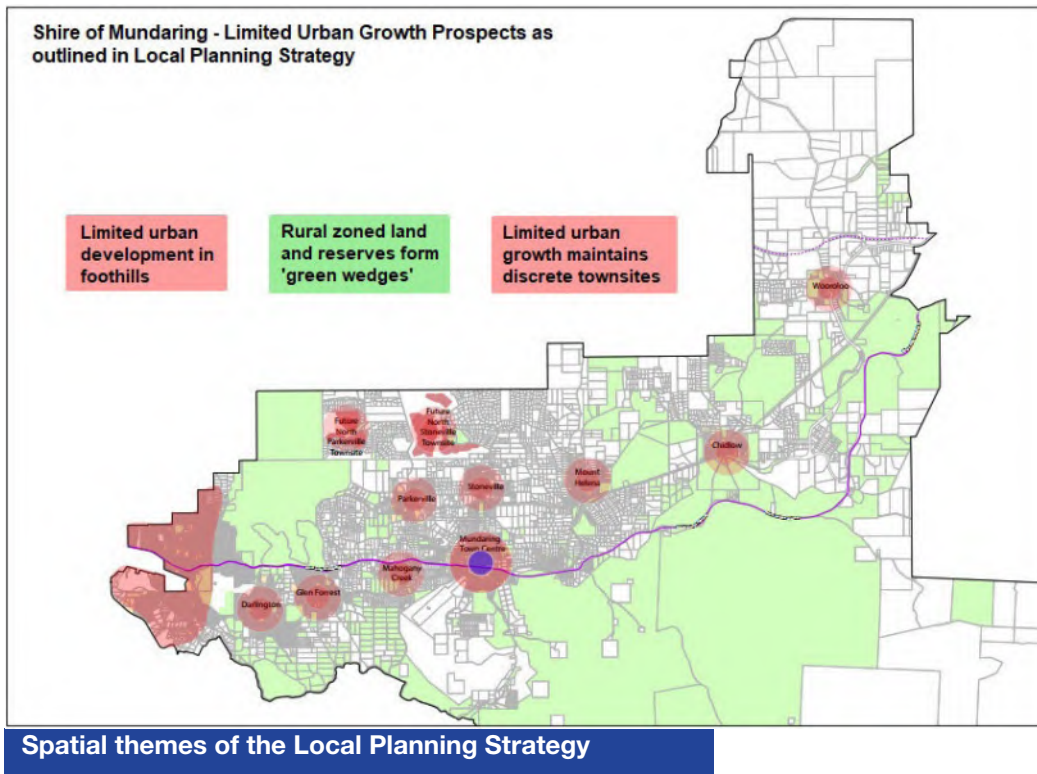


Local Planning Strategy

The Shire’s Local Planning Strategy (2013) recognised the historic growth pattern, current constraints and community aspirations and adopted:

- a low growth approach to account for the natural geophysical constraints (topography, soil, vegetation, bushfire) in the eastern portion of the Shire;
- limited growth in or near existing townsites where appropriate;
- two designated new townsites North Parkerville and North Stoneville, (that may or may not eventuate for the purposes of this strategy); and
- subdivision potential directed to infill in the existing foothills urban areas.

The rural wedges and natural spaces between nodes of existing local centres will continue to be the defining characteristic of the Shire.

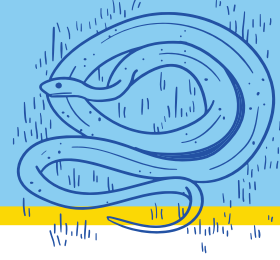


Spatial themes of the Local Planning Strategy

The future of the North Parkerville and North Stoneville townsites is still somewhat unknown and ultimately rests with the State Government and/or the State Administrative Tribunal.

The Local Planning Strategy also introduced mapping and protection of Local Natural Areas based on the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009, which are still in effect (and effective).

Introduction



Strategic Community Plan

The Strategic Community Plan (2020 - 2030) is a long-term guiding document for the Shire of Mundaring, developed following broad consultation about community values, concerns and vision for the future. Preparing an updated Local Biodiversity Strategy was an action identified within the Shire’s Strategic Community Plan (SCP).



Community

Healthy, safe, sustainable and resilient community where businesses flourish and everyone belongs

Natural environment

A natural environment that is protected, sustainable and enjoyed



Built Environment

Transport, infrastructure and planning for liveable, connected communities

Governance

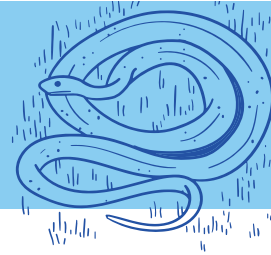
Trusted, leading and listening local government



Over the 10 year life of the SCP, a priority of the Council is ‘Shire-led conservation, protection and retention of natural areas’.

To ensure this LBS is aligned with Community and Council expectations, it must seek to enhance environmental outcomes, amongst other goals and including the importance of measured and appropriate bushfire preparedness for community safety.

Introduction



Environmental Sustainability Policy

The Shire's Environmental Sustainability Policy was adopted in 2018. It consolidates the Shire's strategic position on key environmental issues and provides a basis for future environmental initiatives. Its purpose is:

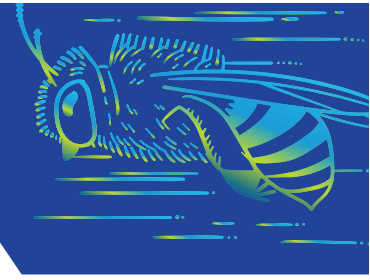
To establish a sustainable Shire that demonstrates our corporate and community commitment to the environment and reflects our responsibility to its natural assets for future generations. The Shire strives to be a leader in local government sustainability and environmental management.

Although environmental management and sustainability at a global level are closely intertwined, the Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy is intended to focus on the protection and management of the natural environment. A 'sustainability strategy' or similar may be prepared at some future point.

The following guiding principles of the **Environmental Sustainability** Policy were identified as particularly relevant in the preparation of this Local Biodiversity Strategy:

- 1.1. Biodiversity and watercourse integrity should be maintained and mitigation measures will be considered where the works cannot be designed or constructed to avoid impacts.
- 1.2. The Shire will strive to lead by example in balancing bushfire risk management with maintaining biodiversity and conservation of natural landscapes.
- 1.3. Allocation of Shire resources for natural area management will take into account social and ecological values and the nature of threatening processes.
- 1.4. Human induced climate change is recognised as a key threat to biodiversity, requiring mitigation action to reduce carbon emissions at all levels of government, and adaptation to local impacts.
- 3.1. The Shire recognises that healthy ecosystems and well-managed natural areas support the health and well-being of the community, and the Shire will strive to lead by example as a responsible custodian of public environmental assets.
- 4.2. The Shire will remain agile; learning and collaborating with community groups, research institutions and relevant government agencies to adapt best practice environmental management to fit the Shire's context.

Consolidating Environmental Strategies



Over the past 25 years the Shire had developed a number of separate plans and strategies focussed on particular elements of the natural environment. These included a Wildlife Corridor Strategy (2000), Community Education Strategy (2002), Local Biodiversity Strategy (2009), Environmental Management Plan (2012) and Roadside Conservation Strategy (2016).

Each of these plans or strategies served a purpose at the time, and supported many Shire projects, successful grant applications, and collaboration with environmental volunteers and other organisations. However, continuing to create and update many discrete plans and strategies does not aid Shire staff and volunteers to understand and work together towards a common goal.

The Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee has agreed that it was advantageous for the Shire move to away from overlapping single issue strategies, and consolidate these into a discrete higher-level document with a clear line of sight to the Shire's Community Strategy Plan and Local Planning Strategy.

The original Local Biodiversity Strategy had a significant focus on identifying local natural areas on private land and adding protection from clearing through the local planning framework, informed by vegetation complex. This is outlined in Appendix 1.

The goals set in this regard have largely been met, and the success of the previous strategy is noted in Appendix 1. An update on the extent remaining in different vegetation complexes is provided in Appendix 2.

This Local Biodiversity Strategy now seeks to draw together and consolidate actions to protect the natural environment into a single document that more clearly states the Shire's intent and guides staff efforts.

A review of implementation of the actions under previous strategies was undertaken by Shire staff, followed by a peer review by an environmental consultancy including a previous employee of the Shire (past Coordinator of Environment). The plans reviewed were:

- Local Biodiversity Strategy
- Roadside Conservation Strategy
- Wildlife Corridor Strategy
- Private Land Conservation Strategy
- Community Education Strategy
- Environmental Management Plan
- Local Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (actions relevant to biodiversity)
- Local Planning Strategy (actions relevant to biodiversity)
- Eastern Region Catchment Management Plan

This review found that, of 530 actions across nine plans and strategies, just over 50% had been fully completed. Nearly 20% of actions were considered partially complete or 'ongoing'. Some actions were noted to now be the responsibility of other organisations, or established as business as usual for the Shire. **Overall** 14% were assessed as no longer relevant. Some duplication of similar actions was also noted across the nine documents, supporting the approach to consolidate strategies relating to the natural environment.

Consolidating Environmental Strategies



The reviewers noted that implementation of Local Biodiversity Strategies and overall pursuit of the Community Strategic Plan vision, 'A place for sustainable living', will require a holistic approach. A number of themes were identified relevant to environmental management and the consolidated Local Biodiversity Strategy, including training, education, volunteer engagement, mapping, funding, advocacy and research.

Bushfire risk and implementing bushfire mitigation for community safety whilst protecting, conserving, and enhancing biodiversity was noted as one of the biggest challenges. Both planned fire and wildfire can have impacts on native species, and different species have different requirements. Fire mitigation works can also provide opportunities for significant weed control and can coordinate with actions that support biodiversity conservation on both public and private land.

The review also noted that available staff and resources will limit the implementation of any plan or strategy. In this regard the reviewers suggested additional staffing resources be acquired.

These suggestions were provided from assessing the actions not completed and summarising the gaps and/or workload associated with the implementation.

Suggestions included:

- a stewardship officer to assist with private land conservation, education and training;
- a strategic environmental officer to assist with data (mapping), research, advocacy, funding and implementation of strategic objectives of the LBS;
- a reserve management officer or fire ecologist helps with environmental reserve management including a strong fire education background; and
- further bolstering the area of catchment support and volunteers within the friends group framework may require an additional resource/partnership.

Previous strategies had recommended the creation of a part time Stewardship Officer position and a Reserve Management Officer.

Rather than create a new and separate position of Stewardship Officer, this Strategy has recommended an increase to the capacity of existing part time Environmental Officers.

Business cases will be required as part of the annual Council budget process for future creation of new environmental positions, or further increases to part time positions.

Opportunities



Biodiversity is defined in Australia's Strategy for Nature 2019-2030:

Biodiversity is the variety of all life forms on earth — the different plants, animals and micro-organisms and the ecosystems of which they are a part.

There is State and Commonwealth Government legislation that provides for protection of biodiversity, listing of threatened species and ecosystems, and approval processes for actions that may impact on biodiversity. The key legislation is:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (National)*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA)*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA)*
- *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (WA)*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005 (WA)*

The Shire of Mundaring is located within the South West Australia Ecoregion which is Australia's only Global Biodiversity Hotspot. Although this Ecoregion only covers 5% of Australia, it contains about 8,000 plant species, which is more than one-third of Australia's known flowering plants. The Ecoregion is also home to many unique fauna and it is designated as a 'Hotspot' because its rich biodiversity is under threat.

Protection of Local Biodiversity

Shire of Mundaring has a range of advantages and opportunities to conserve biodiversity. First and foremost, the Shire has retained a far greater extent of remnant native vegetation and natural watercourses than most local government areas within the Perth Metropolitan Region.

This means that there are native plants and animals still in functioning ecosystems and natural areas, including the great diversity of life underground. Fungi and micro-organisms within the soil are an invisible but essential part of natural ecosystems and support forest health.

Clearing of native vegetation is primarily governed by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation clearing permit process under the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*.

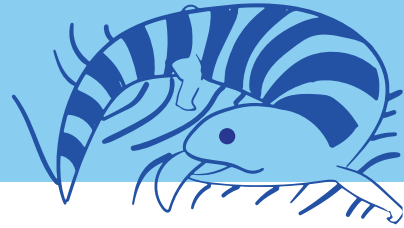
Through the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, the Shire provides some additional protection of native vegetation through provisions in the Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

However, there are also specific exemptions in recognition of existing property rights and bushfire safety requirements.

The additional protection through Local Planning Scheme No. 4 is based on the mapping and prioritisation of remnant vegetation following the Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for the Perth Metropolitan Region (2004).

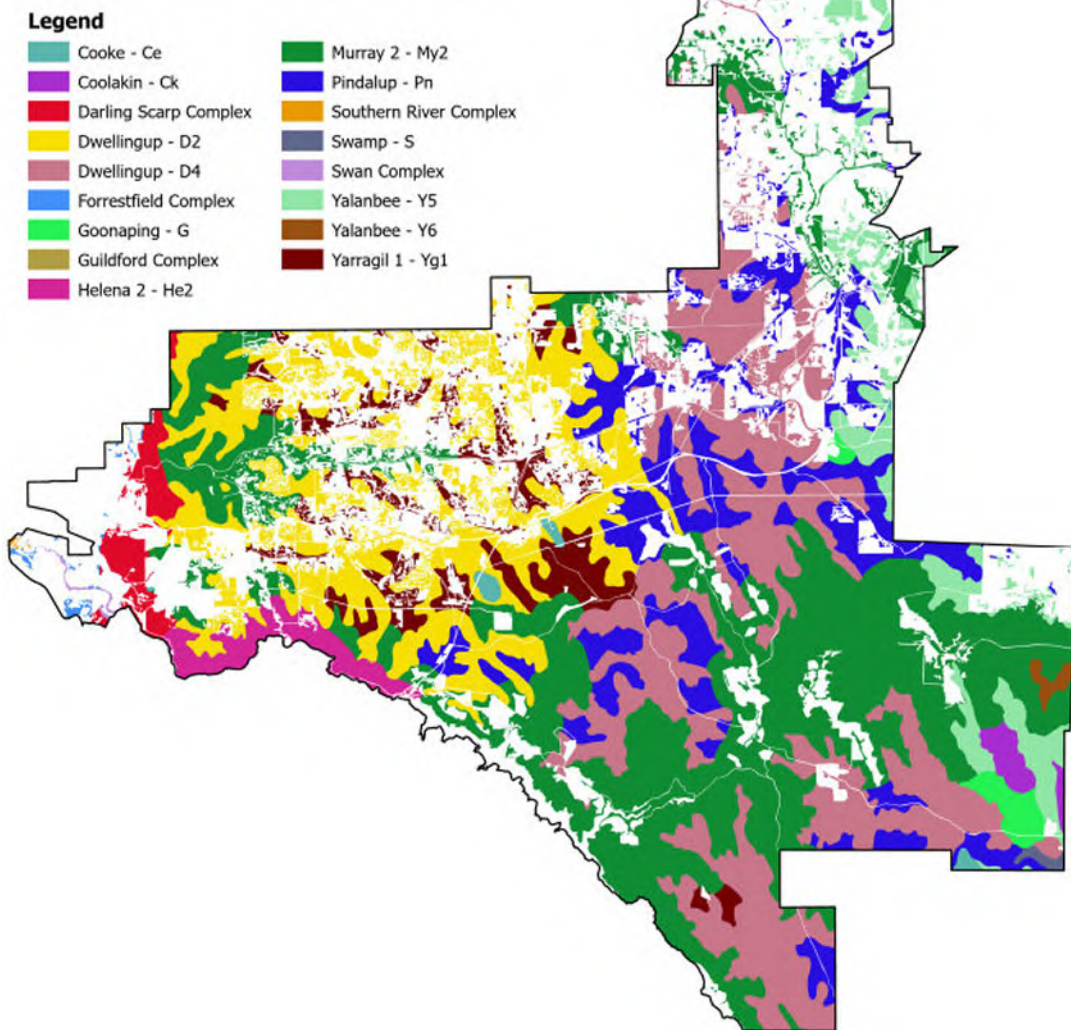
The Guidelines provide for biodiversity planning using vegetation complexes as a proxy for ecological diversity. This is a pragmatic approach given the many knowledge gaps for particular species and ecosystems.

Opportunities



The extent of remnant vegetation in the Shire is shown below by vegetation complex. This mapping was undertaken by the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) in 2020 through its now-ceased Environmental Planning Tool (LG Maps) service, using data provided by State Government agencies.

Native Vegetation Complexes within Shire of Mundaring



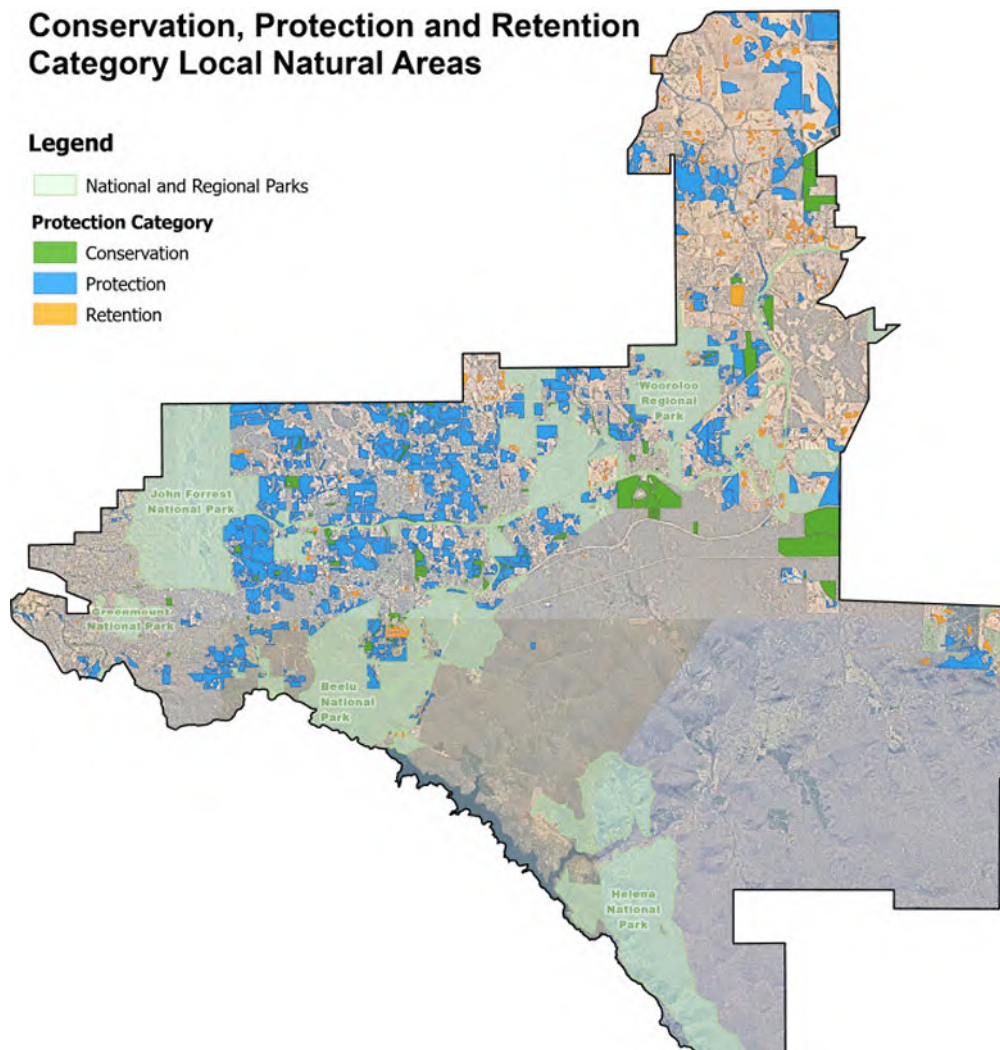
Native Vegetation Extent by Vegetation Complex in Shire of Mundaring (2020)

Opportunities



Mapping and prioritisation of remnant native vegetation outside of the State’s conservation estate was completed in developing the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009. This was given effect through inclusion of Local Natural Area (LNA) mapping in the Local Planning Strategy and specific clauses in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (see Appendix 1). Areas of LNA shown below have been classified as Conservation, Protection or Retention, and other LNA that has limited protection due to the zoning and existing development rights should still be retained where possible.

Conservation, Protection and Retention Category Local Natural Areas



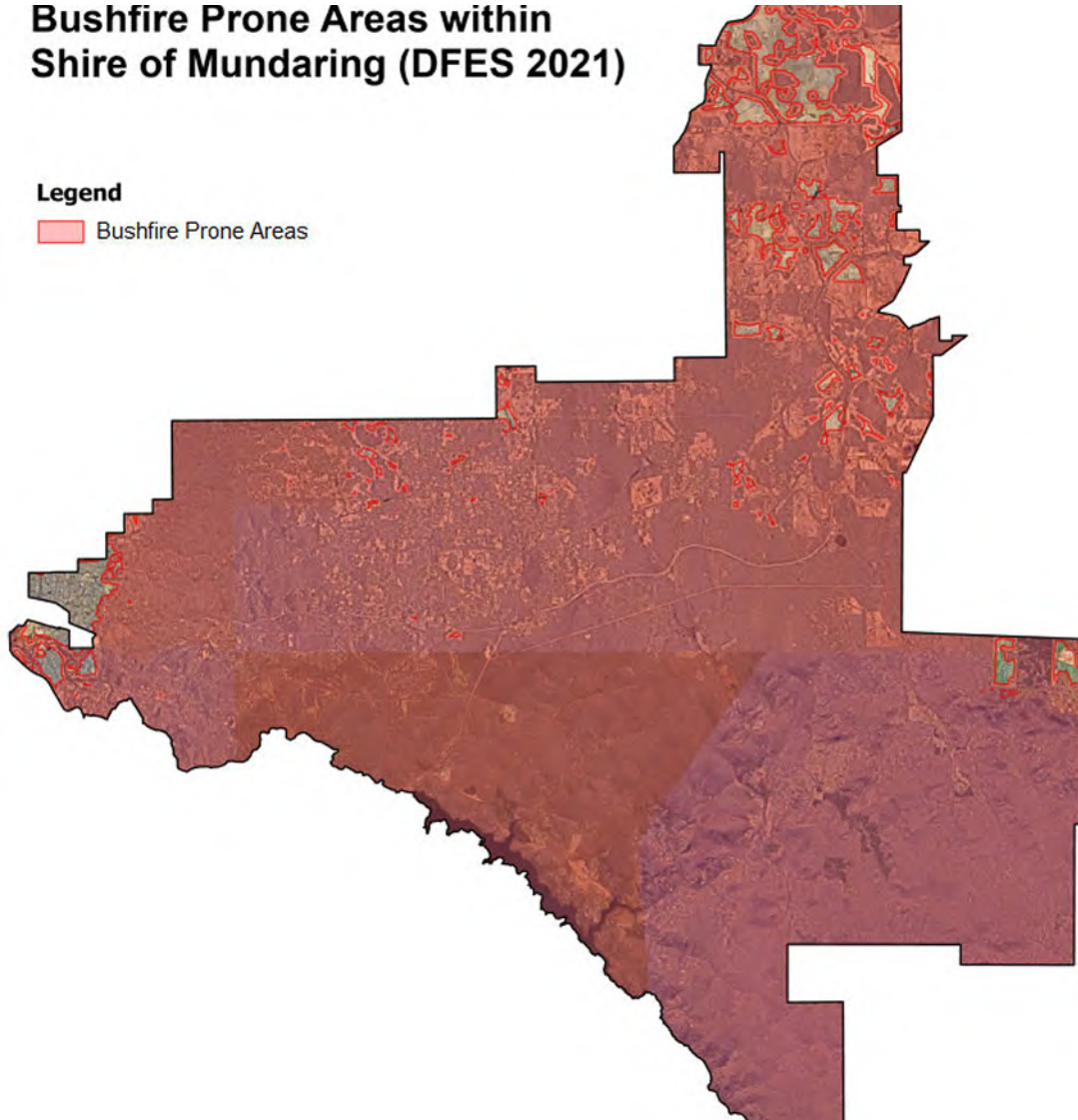
Protected Local Natural Areas and National and Regional Parks

Opportunities



The Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 also included provisions regarding bushfire risk, which sought to balance environmental protection with protection of human life and property. Mapping of Bushfire Prone Areas is now undertaken by the State Government.

Bushfire Prone Areas within Shire of Mundaring (DFES 2021)



**Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner
Designated Bushfire Prone Areas**

Opportunities



The designation of areas of intact native vegetation as 'Local Natural Areas' provides a trigger for a planning application and local environmental assessment where clearing is proposed. This includes clearing that is required to address bushfire risk under the State Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas. DFES has encouraged the Shire to consider refusing or objecting to proposals where biodiversity and bushfire matters cannot be reconciled, rather than providing for or recommending conditional approval.

While the native vegetation protection provisions in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 do not protect all native vegetation (particularly on smaller, residential lots) they do provide more extensive environmental protection than many equivalent local planning schemes and have been regarded as best practice in WA.

Local Planning Scheme No. 4 also provides for additional protection of watercourses and riparian vegetation. This is in addition to the requirements for permits from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for permits to interfere with the beds and banks of a watercourse.

The Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy that was prepared concurrently with this Local Biodiversity Strategy assessed the health of watercourses within the Shire and the adequacy of provisions within the local planning framework. Watercourses naturally form an integral component of wildlife corridor networks. They will become increasingly important as water sources and refuges in a changing climate.

Implementation of recommendations within the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy will also help protect biodiversity through protecting riparian areas from inappropriate development, and managing stormwater flows to retain more water in the landscape while preventing erosion.

Valuing the Natural Environment

Many residents are already actively involved in caring for the natural environment, whether on their own property or as a volunteer. People take pride and joy in establishing wildlife friendly gardens and seeing native species breed in nest boxes they have installed.



Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Chick in Nest Box (Photo courtesy of Simon Cherriman)

Opportunities



The importance of biodiversity and benefits of time in nature for human health and well-being is increasingly well recognised. Our natural landscapes and biodiversity are also central to the character and identity of the Shire, and celebrated in works by local artists.

Protection of the Shire's natural assets also supports aspirations of the Shire's Tourism and Economic Development Strategy to capitalise on and enhance the Shire's natural assets without compromising its highly valued and unique natural environment. The combination of proximity to greater Perth and an attractive, biodiverse landscape will continue to provide tourism and economic opportunities.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Native species, pests and environmental issues cross boundaries. The Shire has a history of collaborating with neighbouring local governments and regional organisations for successful environmental initiatives. This includes support for Friends Groups and Catchment Groups through the long-running Eastern Region Catchment Management Program.

There may be new opportunities to improve biodiversity conservation through participating in trials or adapting environmental management based on new environmental research; improving use of remote monitoring technology, and better mapping and sharing of spatial information.

There may also be opportunities to participate in environmental offsets, carbon sequestration and biodiversity certification initiatives of the State and Commonwealth Governments.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is a significant land manager within the Shire. A collaborative approach would assist in the coordinated management of local and State Government managed lands and biodiversity values.

This may include initiatives to prevent illegal clearing; carefully reducing bushfire risks; and tackling threats to the State forest, national parks and nature reserves caused by illegal off-road vehicles, feral animals, firewood collection and rubbish dumping. New technologies such as drones may provide new and safer opportunities to identify environmental damage and those responsible.

New opportunities for collaboration will arise from the transfer of lands to the Noongar Boodja Trust. The South West Native Title Settlement represents the most significant Native Title agreement in Australian history.

In essence, it recognises the Noongar people as the Traditional Owners of the South West and creates a "Noongar Land Estate." The Shire recognises this important settlement as a State response to longstanding Aboriginal land rights matters that can provide further cultural, social and economic opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

It is understood up to 2,523 hectares of unallocated land/reserves within the Shire may ultimately fall under the control of the Noongar Boodja Trust. The South West Native Title Settlement will introduce new stakeholder/s to manage currently unmanaged Crown land in the Shire, e.g. for ecological restoration and bushfire risk, as well as supporting the economy and Noongar culture.

Opportunities



Council endorsed the Shire's Reconciliation Plan at its meeting February 2022 Ordinary Council meeting with the recommendation:

“Support land transfers as recommended by State decision making processes.”

IA key principle of the agreement and ultimately land portfolio across the South-West is to ensure self-sustaining assets and responsible management regimes are in place.

The Trustee for the Noongar Boodja Trust (Trustee) and the associated Noongar Boodja Land Sub Pty Ltd (Land Sub) are the landholding bodies for the entirety of the Noongar Land Estate. The Trustee was appointed on 29 March 2021 and is Perpetual Trustees Ltd., a professional property management trustee with a global land portfolio.

The Noongar Boodja Trust (the central corporate body of the 6 ILUAs – Indigenous Land Use Agreements) can apply to use Noongar Land Estate to:

...provide significant opportunities for the Noongar community to achieve sustainable economic, social and cultural outcomes (SWALSC website).

Consideration of land for inclusion in the Noongar Land Estate and associated use/development is anticipated to occur incrementally over several years. The Shire will treat planning matters that arise like any other; acknowledging also that any land transfers that materialise have come about as a result of a State-led modern treaty and ultimately State decisions about Crown land.

Skill sharing and community development with the Noongar community in relation to environmental and bushfire management represents a significant opportunity.

In the meantime and when necessary, the Shire will express its land management expectations in relation to community safety (Bushfire Risk Management Plan) and environmental protection to any new parties taking over unallocated bush reserves – ensuring they are aware of the recurring management obligations and costs.

Opportunities to engage and collaborate with Aboriginal Corporations and coordinate and enhance land management practices will be pursued. One opportunity may be to extend an invitation to local representatives to nominate for membership or otherwise participate in the Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee meetings.

The Challenges Ahead



In addition to harnessing the opportunities there are many and varied environmental challenges before the Shire. Some are ongoing and well-known threats to biodiversity including weed invasion, feral animals, and clearing.

Other challenges are contextual; meaning they either are a threat multiplier or are unavoidable organisational realities. For the Shire, these contextual challenges include climate change, bushfire, development pressure, fragmented land management, lack of knowledge, and available resources. Threatening processes interact, and unfortunately, many are likely to be accelerated or worsened by climate change.

Future Development & Growth

Given environmental limitations as well as lack of sewerage and bushfire risk, the Shire will remain a 'low growth' area of the Perth Metropolitan Area. This likely future both helps and hinders the Shire's ability to respond and sustain environmental initiatives.

It helps by reducing the immediate threat to biodiversity from clearing for development; but also hinders, because development can also enable the dedication of new conservation reserves, and additional rates revenue could support improved environmental services.

While growth is limited, there are other development and State policy trends that influence the retention of vegetation in the Shire.

Firstly, community aspirations and general prosperity is resulting in a building trend across Australia for larger dwellings. **Larger houses require more clearing to build and establish 'bushfire asset protection zones'.**

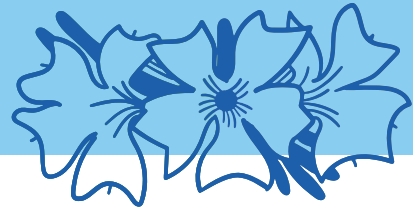
Compact well-designed dwellings are generally more energy efficient and cost effective and should be encouraged by the future LPS4 scheme requirements.

Since the WA Bushfire Guidelines were introduced in 2015, there have been regular updates. In some instances these have increased the local vegetation modification requirements.

Requirements for **clearing within asset protection zones** are now embedded in the State planning framework and building regulations. They may be reviewed and adjusted over time but are not expected to be withdrawn.

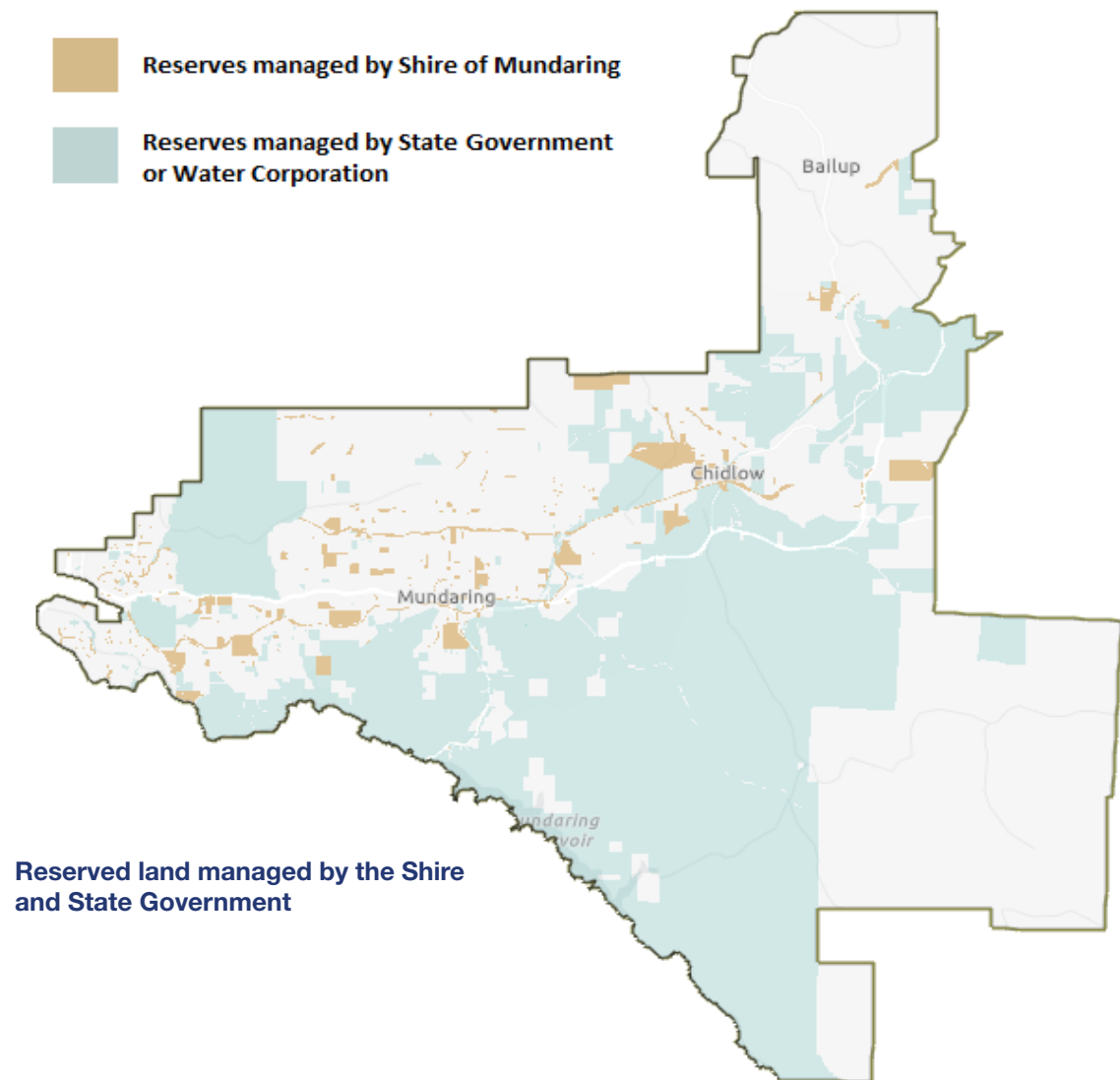
The Shire can exercise a degree of autonomy in setting local standards through the Fire Load and Fire Break Notice (Sec.33 Notice) for established dwellings. The Shire continues to participate in and monitor State policy and regulation to ensure reasonable and appropriate local standards remain.

The Challenges Ahead

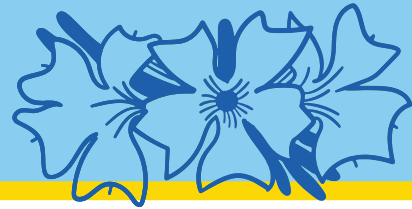


Scale and Resources

The Shire is responsible for managing native vegetation and natural areas over a very large area. The Shire manages 12,000ha of land including parks and nature reserves, 2,168 hectares of road reserve and 20ha of drainage reserves, with relatively few staff. In total, 584 parcels of Crown land are vested to the Shire for its care, control and management.



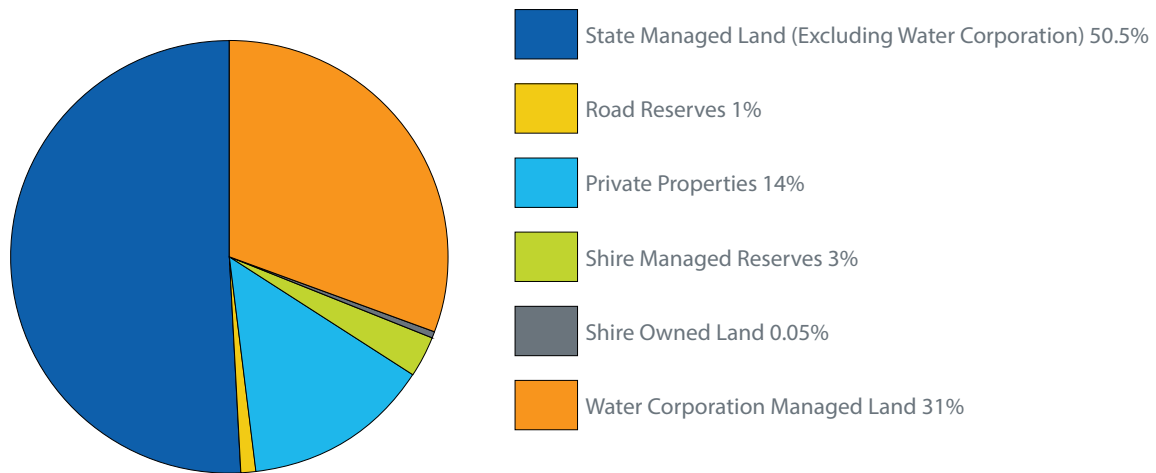
The Challenges Ahead



Percentage of Remaining Native Vegetation per Land Manager

Native vegetation extent for this region was last mapped by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in 2020. DPIRD has now discontinued production of this dataset and an alternative State Government agency may continue or develop an alternative dataset.

Using the 2020 native vegetation extent as the most recent available information, the percentage of natural area (using native vegetation) in each land management category has been calculated.

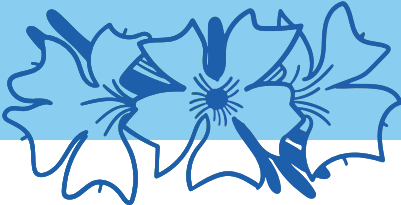


Important State managed reserves include John Forrest National Park, Greenmount National Park, Wooroloo Regional Park, Helena National Park and Beelu National Park. The Helena and Beelu National Parks include forested catchment areas of the Helena River, which is in relatively good condition compared to other rivers in the Perth Metropolitan Area.

There are many parks and reserves that contain only degraded areas of native vegetation. Some of these have limited recreational value as well as low ecological values. Visitation and use of parks has changed over time with social and technological changes including declining household size, availability of home playground equipment, and the growth of online/electronic recreation.

Shire resources are spread thin over a large number of reserves, which reduces the management effort on more significant parks and natural areas.

The Challenges Ahead



Nature Reserves Managed by the Shire

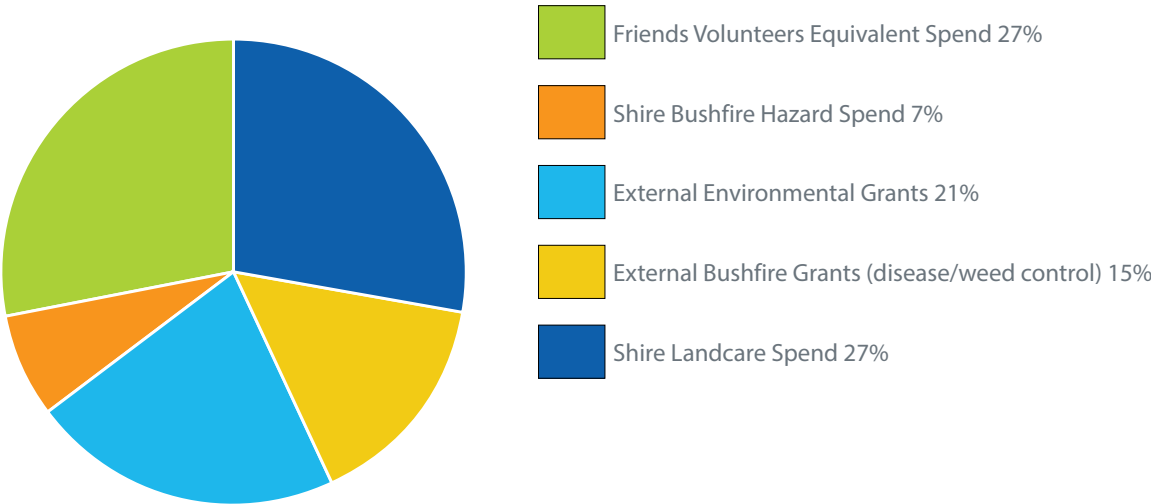
Ovals and landscaped parks require more intensive management but nature reserves represent a significant responsibility for the Shire, where obligations to maintain community safety meet obligations to maintain natural heritage and biodiversity as well as allow recreational access.

Management occurs through a combination of Shire emergency management and fire protection staff, landcare staff and volunteers. Since 2019-20 the Shire has been receiving annual Bushfire Mitigation Funding from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), with a significant portion of that funding directed to weed control and completing works that improve bushfire safety, but also reduce dieback spread.

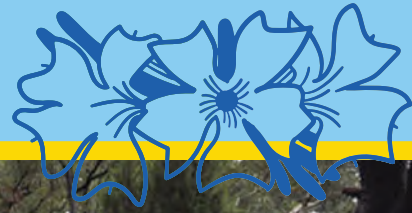
The chart below illustrates the proportionate spending on nature reserves. In recent years:

- The Shire’s direct contribution to landcare matches Friends Group contribution (when valuing volunteer effort at \$50 per hour); and
- Bushfire mitigation funding has effectively doubled the Shire’s external funding for activities that can improve biodiversity outcomes (most notably weed control).

While bushfire mitigation works will continue to have an immediate environmental and visual impact and need to be implemented with care, the funding has also made a substantial contribution to reduce weeds and bring reserves up to a more manageable state; reducing the risk of catastrophic landscape fires. Implementing smaller planned burns allows for greater opportunity for native animals to move out of the burn area, and a finer mosaic of fuel ages.



The Challenges Ahead



Seedlings for Landcare has supported Friends Group revegetation projects

Ultimately, the Shire's ability to manage these natural areas is significantly enhanced by the efforts of environmental volunteers, who as Friends Groups or Catchment Groups may also be eligible for funding that the Shire itself is not eligible to obtain. By way of example, in the 2021/22 financial year, 3,964 hours contributed by 72 Friends of the Reserves Groups with a replacement cost of \$190,311.64.

The role of a Friends Group is to help safely maintain and enhance the environmental values of bushland areas.

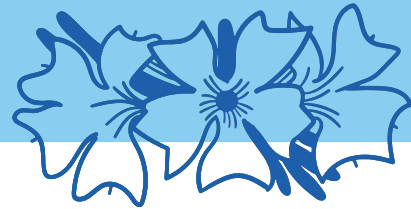
Friends Group volunteers collectively have made a noticeable difference to our environment over the years, and Shire of Mundaring is committed and proud to support our Friends Groups with access to support, training, expert advice, and assistance by contractors and the Shire Landcare team.

Friends Groups have undertaken substantial revegetation and rehabilitation works within their adopted reserves, often making use of native seedlings provided by the Shire through the Seedlings for Landcare program (formerly Tree Canopy and Understorey Program). They are often supported by Catchment Groups that work to coordinate environmental restoration over a broader area and improve the health of our rivers and watercourses.

To tackle the scale of the environmental management tasks across the shire, it is clear the Shire needs to continue to foster and nurture a strong volunteer network.

Collaborations with neighbouring councils and participation in regional initiatives can provide learning and networking opportunities between volunteers. They also provide opportunities for coordinated efforts to tackle threats across catchments and pursue larger regional scale restoration projects.

The Challenges Ahead



Road Reserves and Verges

There are 2,168 hectares of road reserve within the Shire.

Road reserves are multi-purpose corridors for transport, drainage, utilities and telecommunications infrastructure, and trees and vegetation. The Shire of Mundaring retains native vegetation within road reserves where practical, but is not able to actively manage roadsides for environmental enhancement due to resource constraints.

Instead, the Shire focuses on maintaining safety issues such as clearing sightlines, removing fallen trees, reducing fuel loads, clearing vegetation along footpaths, weed spray along kerb lines and hardstand areas, targeted removal of priority weed species, and maintaining drainage infrastructure by removing weeds or upgrading drains. Naturally occurring native trees and shrubs under powerlines are pruned by Western Power to meet their clearance requirements.

Verges are an area of shared responsibility between the Shire and the adjacent landowner. The Shire encourages residents to maintain verges adjacent to their private property. In many cases written Shire approval is required for landowners to either plant or remove vegetation within the verge under the Activities on Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law (2004).

Native vegetation, weeds and fuel loads on verges are frequently raised by residents as concerns given that verges are highly visible to the community, and are critical for safe movement day-to-day traffic and as escape routes in a bushfire.

The Shire's Roadside Conservation Policy adopted in 2017 outlines the Shire's position in relation to retention of native vegetation within its verges. A range of actions are recommended within this Strategy to continue to maintain biodiversity values within road reserves where possible.

Drainage Reserves

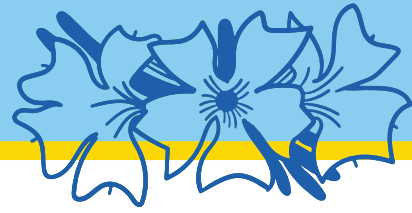
There are 20.6 hectares of drainage reserves, which is a small area relative to other types of reserves that the Shire manages. Drainage reserves can include sections of natural watercourses as well as constructed drains and detention basins. The drainage network is critical in safely managing stormwater runoff, as well as maintaining flows into natural watercourses where possible.

Often creeks and drains traverse other government and private land, making it difficult to ensure consistent management. These corridors, basins and creeklines are critical to maintaining a health ecosystem, and managing flood and other public health matters such as mosquitoes.

Currently, the Shire has a limited budget for improvements to this infrastructure beyond maintaining drainage function; and undertaking sporadic management depending on resident requests, and resource commitments.

Growth and development combined with the compaction of laterite soils has created more water runoff and fundamentally altered water flow. In comparison to the Swan Coastal Plain, where significant effort is directed at reducing nutrient loading and maintaining water quality, the Shire's primary challenges relate to managing water quantity and velocity.

The Challenges Ahead



To address this, the Shire’s draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy (developed concurrently) has identified the potential for the Shire to retrofit existing drainage infrastructure higher in the catchment. Seeking out low-cost retrofit works to manage peak flows, slow runoff to better manage erosion, sedimentation issues is recommended. Identifying opportunities to retain water that corresponds with the wildlife corridor network will be important.

Drainage reserves offer an important opportunity for the Shire to strategically intervene and better manage water resources in a drying climate.

Fragmented Land Management

Connections between nature reserves and other natural areas are essential for movement of wildlife to maintain genetic diversity, adapt to a changing climate, and recolonise after fire. Wildlife corridors do not have to be continuous ribbons of bushland and in a modified landscape, can include a network of smaller stepping stones between larger natural areas.

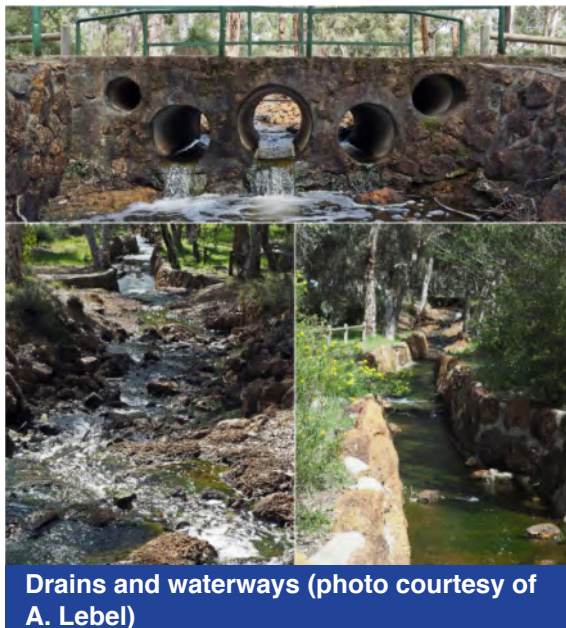
Maintaining populations of native fauna is important to maintain overall ecosystem functions, as they play key roles in pollination, seed dispersal, and movement of fungi that support vegetation health and the breakdown of leaf litter.

Within the Shire, there is a wide variety of land managers, with different approaches, priorities and budgets to vegetation management. By way of example, community concerns have been raised about the approach and method of burning regimes across State agencies. Coming to a common understanding of the most suitable management regime for local vegetation complexes and then achieving a coordinated approach presents a significant challenge.

The Shire only manages 5% of the reserves within the Shire, with the vast majority of reserved land falling under State agency or Water Corporation control.

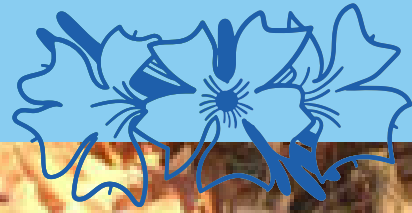
Outside of reserves, an estimated 14% of all the remnant vegetation in the Shire exists on private properties.

Further, 40% percent of the Shire’s watercourses are within or close to areas of freehold ownership. Although there is a level of protection and guidance through the Shire’s planning scheme and environmental controls, it highlights the challenge of coordinating land management practices across the Shire.



Drains and waterways (photo courtesy of A. Lebel)

The Challenges Ahead



Cool burn to reduce surface fuel loads

Fire

Colonisation disrupted traditional owner management practices for the land and forests around Perth which included regular use of fire. Along with logging, weed invasion and reduced numbers of native animals, the loss of traditional burning is thought to have contributed to increased fuel loads and changed forest structure.

The vegetation of the region is adapted to fire. Some plant species need fire (or smoke) for seeds to germinate. However, altered fire regimes can favour weeds and impact on biodiversity through loss of plant species. Different species have different tolerance for fire frequency and intensity and may be advantaged or disadvantaged by fire in different seasons.

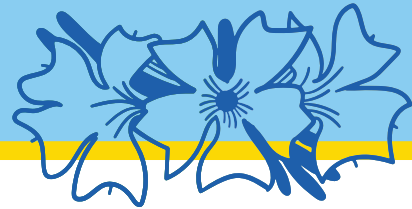
The environment is now different; however the original custodians' invaluable knowledge of native species and fire management should be combined with scientific research findings to inform modern practice. **The full range of impacts of different types of fire on soil, air quality and biodiversity is not yet known and requires further research.**

Planned burns and fire mitigation works can protect native species and natural areas from the adverse impacts of intense wildfires, as well as protecting human life and property.

There is no single ideal time or way to burn that is optimal for all species, and a patchwork 'fine mosaic' of vegetation at different times since fire provides for a broader range of habitats. Pursuing a mosaic of fuel ages within natural areas enables native animals to take refuge from planned burns, and provides areas of lower fire intensity where they have more chance to survive in the event of wildfire.

Habitat trees and other sensitive environmental features will require additional preparation beforehand, and monitoring to protect them during cool burns. Fire mitigation works and planned burns, coordinated with other landcare work, can contribute significantly to weed control efforts. However, without coordinated weed control there is a risk of weed encroachment after both planned burns and wildfire.

The Challenges Ahead



The Shire's bushfire mitigation efforts focus on community safety, but are undertaken carefully to minimise environmental impacts and draw from traditional burning practices. Using a mixture of permanent firebreaks and temporary mulched tracks to undertake mosaic burning provides for smaller burn cells, and greater opportunity for wildlife to move within larger reserves. Permanent firebreaks that are maintained to a good standard also provide for landcare access and recreational uses including walking and cycling. They also reduce the likelihood of the hurried and destructive bulldozing of large tracks as part of a wildfire response.

Management of Shire reserves is important in its own right, but these can also function as demonstration sites and locations for sharing knowledge with residents and others. Inappropriate fire regimes are recognised nationally as a threat to biodiversity, so improving bushfire mitigation practices on private land can direct residents' efforts to work that has greater bushfire safety results and lower environmental impacts. With a large number of land managers across the landscape, managing bushfire risks consistently is a critical challenge.

The increase in bushfire risk must also influence the way that regeneration and revegetation are pursued. For example, watercourses and wildlife corridors benefit from more continuous vegetation, but all revegetation must now be planned with bushfire risk in mind.

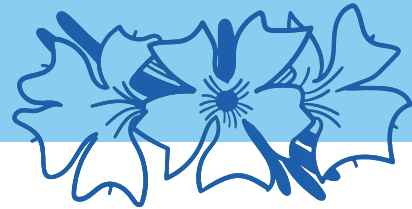
The maintenance and improvement of wildlife corridors must be a compromise between providing strong connections linking natural areas, and protecting those natural areas and the human landscape around them from wildfire. [Maps showing the Wildlife Corridor Network are in Appendix 3.](#) [A list of local, threatened fauna is in Appendix 4.](#)

Maintaining a balance between bushfire mitigation and biodiversity improvements requires first reducing fuel loads from weeds; then selecting more firewise species and planting densities for replacements. Revegetation of riparian zones around watercourses has additional benefits in slowing stormwater, increasing infiltration, reducing erosion, sedimentation and reducing flood risk downstream.

In some locations continuous corridors are not possible or appropriate and improvements will focus on 'stepping stones' and consider new approaches such as 'Miyawaki forest' patches. Small areas of dense, diverse plantings called Miyawaki forests can grow quickly, absorbing carbon dioxide more rapidly and providing wildlife refuges, but will need to be assessed for bushfire risk implications before being recommended in bushfire prone areas.

Interactions between biodiversity, wildfire, planned fire and other fire mitigation actions are complicated and some of the issues are outlined in [Appendix 5](#).

The Challenges Ahead



Knowledge

This strategy builds upon existing knowledge and information. However, there are many unknowns, and native species that have not been studied to know their habitat requirements or interactions within the ecosystem. Some of the least studied organisms, including fungi, insects and other invertebrates, play critical roles in maintaining pollination and supporting plant and forest health.

As expressed within the Shire's Environmental Sustainability policy, the Shire must remain agile and open to continuous improvement. The strategic outlook must embrace the need for the Shire to participate in research initiatives.

The Shire has opportunities to contribute to filling knowledge gaps in biodiversity and land management, which will lead to adjustments and improvements in practice in response to new information and insights.

An area of particular importance will be emerging science for bushfire risk mitigation and local native species responses to fire.

Most research into fire mitigation has been conducted outside of Western Australia, and it is difficult to reconcile the range of expert opinions into practical local action.

The Shire will continue to monitor research in this area, and test and challenge State requirements that are not necessarily aligned with our specific vegetation complexes.

The Shire is well placed to play an important role in continuing to question, and seek to enhance performance within the bushfire planning industry and relevant stakeholders.

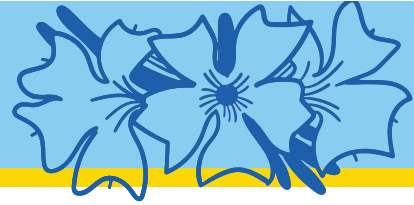
Improving mapping and monitoring of responses to bushfire mitigation and planned burns within Shire managed reserves will also help inform improvements to bushfire and biodiversity advice provided to other land managers.

Future Threats

There are some potentially significant threats on the horizon but not currently present within the Shire. The full impact on biodiversity of the arrival of new pests and diseases is difficult to predict. Some of these potential future threats which require monitoring are noted below.



The Challenges Ahead



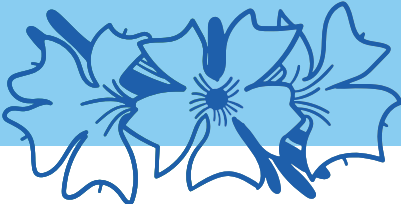
Cane Toads

(Rhinella marina) impact many native species through competition for food and habitat, predation, and poisoning. They have been in Western Australia since 2009 when they entered the Kimberley from the Northern Territory, and are currently estimated to be spreading at around 50km per year. Faster spread is possible through 'hitchhikers' and while the climate within the Perth hills is not currently mapped as suitable for cane toads, the climate is changing and cane toads are proving adaptable in the north of the state. Eradication of small populations would be possible ahead of the main front.



¹Cane toad detection (Australian Museum, 2020) ² Cane Toad courtesy ABC News

The Challenges Ahead



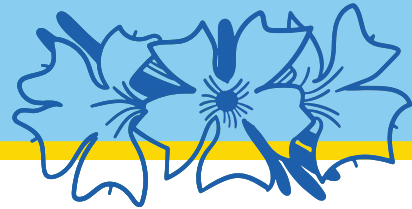
Herbicide resistant weeds may emerge from agricultural regions. These may also include genetically modified crops (such as canola) which have been developed to be resistant to particular herbicides. Weeds resistant to one herbicide will usually still be susceptible to other herbicides, although multiple herbicide resistance can occur. Demand from the agricultural sector can be expected to support the development of alternative products and approaches if significant herbicide resistant weeds develop.

Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is a fungus from South America, where the native Myrtaceae species have evolved a natural resistance to it. It spreads by tiny yellow spores and attacks the leaves, stems and flowers of susceptible plants (including Eucalypts), affecting seed production. Since 2010 it has infected forests in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, the Northern Territory, Tasmania. It has been detected within the Kimberley in 2022 and has potential to devastate many ecosystems by preventing seed production if it spreads within southwest Western Australia. Myrtle rust can be controlled in garden or horticultural settings using chemicals, but chemical control is not a viable option across large areas including native forests.



Myrtle rust fungus affects plants from the Myrtaceae family, including leaves, stems and shoots (DPIRD).

The Challenges Ahead

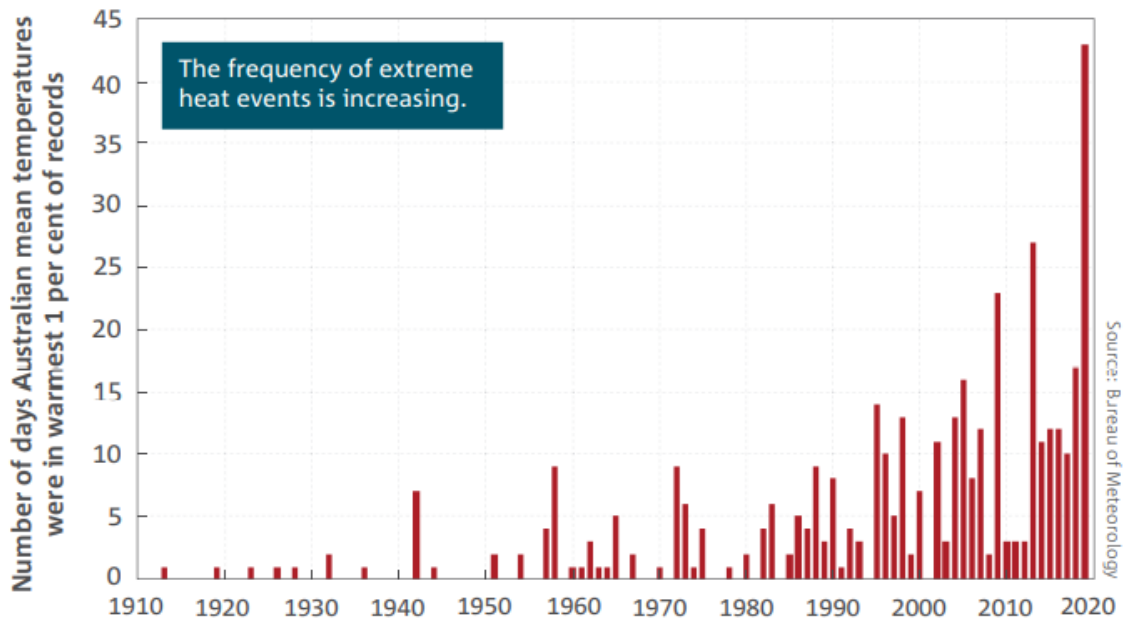


Climate Change

The most wide-ranging threat is climate disruption from global warming, caused by increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. While the climate has changed in the past, the current rate of change has been accelerated by the burning of fossil fuels, and is faster than many plants and animals will be able to move or adapt. Climate change will also have a multiplier effect, increasing the negative impacts of other threatening processes and particularly in this region, fire.

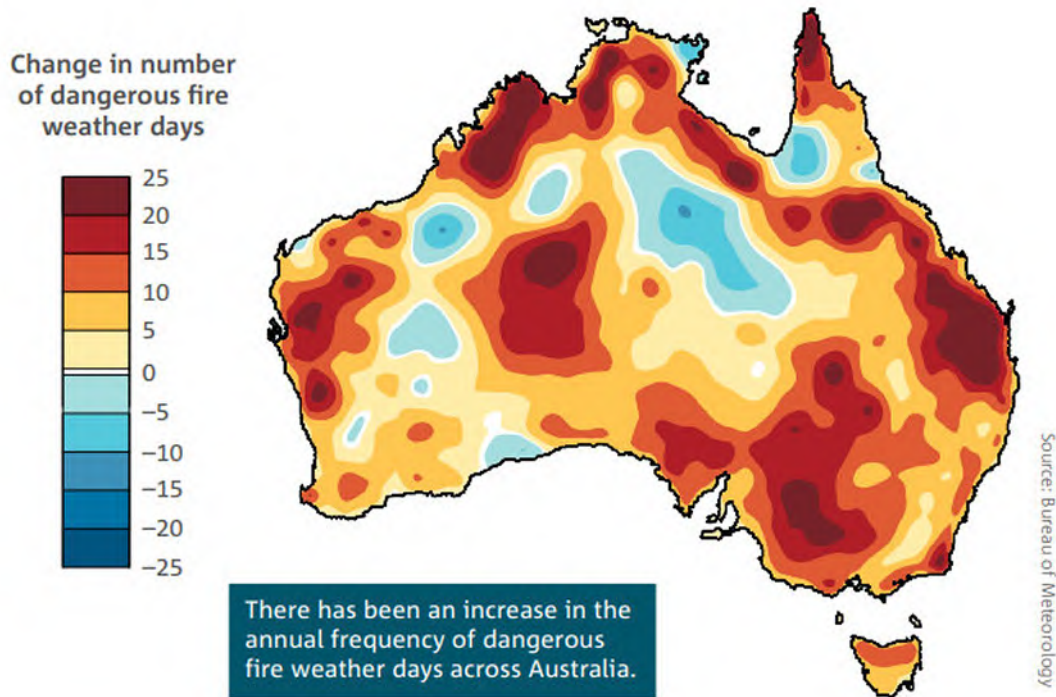
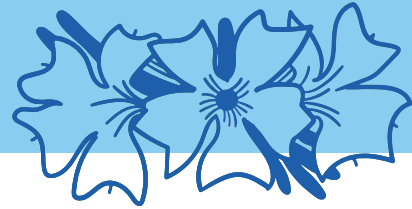
The full extent of climate change experienced over the next century will depend on action to reduce the production of greenhouse gases and absorb carbon dioxide. (Shire actions to reduce emissions are the focus of a separate Energy and Emissions Reduction Strategy.) Past emissions have already ‘locked in’ additional warming for the next few decades. The frequency of hot days, heatwaves, and dangerous bushfire weather have all been increasing and expected to continue.

CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology produce regular ‘State of the Climate’ reports, summarising what has been observed and what is expected for Australia. The images below are from the 2020 report:



Number of days each year where the Australian area-averaged daily mean temperature for each month is extreme. Extreme daily mean temperatures are the warmest 1 per cent of days for each month, calculated for the period from 1910 to 2019.

The Challenges Ahead

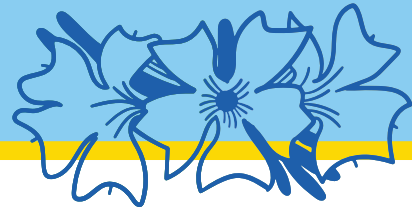


There has been an increase in the number of days with dangerous weather conditions for bushfires. This is based on the change in the annual (July to June) number of days between the two periods: July 1950 – June 1985 and July 1985 – June 2020 that the Forest Fire Danger Index exceeds its 90th percentile, which is an indicator of dangerous fire weather conditions for a given location.

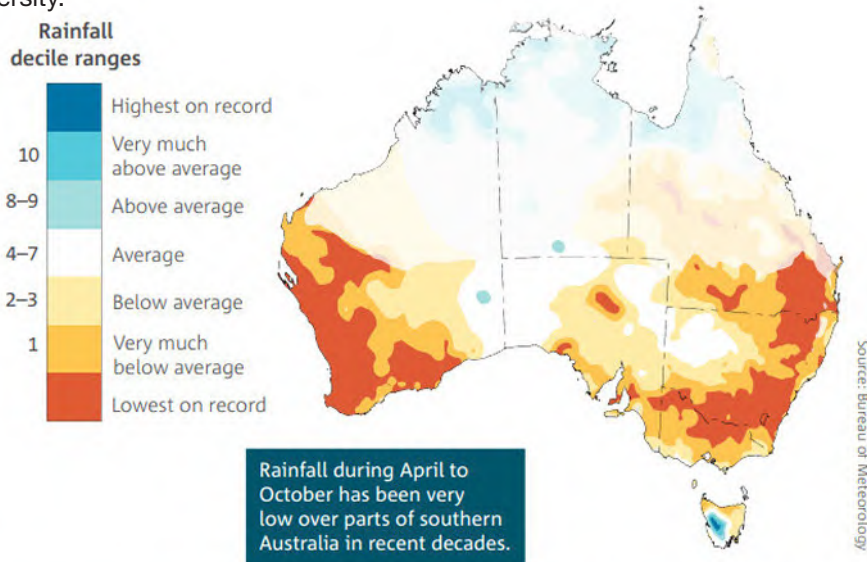
The broad trends observed in the south-west of Western Australia are higher annual temperatures, longer bushfire seasons and disrupted rainfall patterns, including both periods of drought and the likelihood of lower annual rainfall but more frequent flooding events.

The range of impacts on the natural environment from those changes include pressure on vulnerable species particularly during drought and heatwaves, erosion issues along watercourses, reduction in permanent water bodies, and general destruction from more intense bushfires (including loss of the soil seed bank).

The Challenges Ahead



Drier conditions combined with the increasing frequency of dangerous fire weather make it more likely that wildfires will spread quickly. Although there is less rainfall overall, more of it is falling in storms. Where there is significant rain and flooding following a bushfire (such as the Woorloo Fire) this can ‘compound’ or multiply the impacts of both, resulting in increased loss of topsoil and biodiversity.



April to October rainfall deciles for the last 20 years (2000–19). A decile map shows where rainfall is above average, average or below average for the recent period, in comparison with the entire rainfall record from 1900. Areas across northern and central Australia that receive less than 40 per cent of their annual rainfall during April to October are faded.

The United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has identified the Northern Jarrah Forest as one of the Australian ecosystems most at risk due to climate change. There is a significant risk of areas of ecosystem ‘transition’ or ‘collapse’ as a result of mass tree deaths in a hotter and drier climate.

Some species and ecosystems may prove more resilient than others. Where there are signs of ecosystem failure, more active intervention may be required, either to attempt to regenerate the previous ecosystem or to take a stewardship approach to development of a novel ecosystem based on the changed climatic conditions. Cost effective and broad-scale vegetation health monitoring would be an important asset to detecting and responding to climate change pressures.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation ‘Climate Science Initiative’ is undertaking detailed modelling for Western Australia and is expected to deliver regional climate projections in 2024. Some actions and priorities identified within this strategy may need to be revisited at that stage, or in the next scheduled review. It is hoped that much more guidance will become available from State Government agencies in the next decade, to assist all landowners and managers with locally appropriate adaptation.

Local Environmental Threats



In relation to locally specific and relevant environmental challenges, the threats faced by our native species and ecosystems are varied and significant. These include land clearing, dieback, invasive weeds, introduced predators, and climate change reducing local streamflow and increasing bushfire risks.

The stability of natural ecosystems including our jarrah forests depends on many species. The loss of particular species, such as specialised native pollinators, can cause additional losses from species that depended on them. Targeted actions will be required to address local threats, minimise local extinctions and reduce the risk of ecological collapse.

Dieback and Disease

Phytophthora Dieback is a root rotting plant disease, caused by introduced water moulds such as *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. A water mould is similar to a fungus and it lives in soil and plant tissue. After it attacks the roots, many plants will quickly die off as they are unable to take up water and nutrients. **While other plant diseases such as marri canker can also impact forest health, dieback is considered the most serious since it affects so many different plant species.**

Once plants and soil are infected the disease can be treated but not cured. Without treatment, susceptible plants (nearly half of local plant species) will die and the ecological and habitat values of the area will be permanently reduced, which is why dieback is called the ‘biological bulldozer’. More information on dieback impacts and management is included in Appendix 6.

Some plant species or individual plants are much more resistant than others and can survive in dieback infested areas. Shire reserves are part of a research project to test plant species dieback susceptibility in the Perth hills. Environmental science PhD students have been working on a multi year study to recommend species and methods to rehabilitate dieback affected areas.



Loss of habitat in dieback affected jarrah forest (right) compared to dieback free forest (left)

Local Environmental Threats



Clearing

Loss of native vegetation and reduced connections between natural areas removes habitat for wildlife and limits their ability to move and reproduce. This fragmentation can also reduce pollination of plants, resulting in a slow decline in plant diversity.

The most common reason for clearing is for development at varying scales – for subdivision, for building a house, or adding pools, sheds and carports.

Clearing of native vegetation may require local, state or federal approval depending on the scale and location. *The Environmental Protection Act 1986 is the primary legislation protecting native vegetation in WA. Clearing permits are required from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, unless specific listed exemption applies.*

There are specific listed exemptions from requiring a state clearing permit and most clearing is not at a scale that requires federal approval.

There are notable exceptions including habitat for listed threatened or endangered species, such as black-cockatoo species.

Significant clearing can occur where subdivision and development is approved by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). Shire Planning and Environmental Officers review proposals and seek to influence the WAPC decision by providing recommendations and requesting conditions to prevent or minimise environmental impacts.

For existing private properties, the vegetation protection provisions within the local planning framework provide for Shire planning and environmental staff to review proposed development including clearing and reduce the impacts where possible.

While less vegetation can typically be retained within Residential zoned properties, important environmental features including habitat trees and riparian vegetation along watercourses are protected where possible.

Clearing is an important contributing factor for erosion and sedimentation of watercourses, which is magnified by the increased discharge of stormwater from buildings and paved or hardstand areas. Protection of existing vegetation along watercourses is the most effective option but where revegetation is required, this should mimic the natural form and structure of riparian vegetation to maximise biodiversity benefits.

Much more fuel reduction and vegetation clearing is now required around new houses, to meet bushfire guidelines and achieve an acceptable bushfire attack level (BAL), than was the case in past decades. Owners of houses built before December 2015 when current BAL requirements came into effect are also permitted to clear more of their Asset Protection Zones (APZ) according to the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner's Standards.

It is possible that the State Government may further expand exemptions from clearing permits and local government planning approval in bushfire prone areas in the future, particularly within Asset Protection Zones.

While most people will agree on the need for fire mitigation actions, there are a wide range of views about what is effective and necessary. Excessive clearing or too-frequent burning can encourage weed growth and have negative environmental outcomes without improving bushfire safety.

Local Environmental Threats



Illegal Logging

The removal of vegetation from Shire land, dead or alive, is prohibited under Shire of Mundaring Local Property Law and the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*. Illegal logging for firewood collection is an ongoing issue that affects Shire conservation reserves, National Parks, regional nature reserves, and water catchment areas.

Illegal logging has an immediate environmental impact through the removal of habitat, but also unregulated access can spread dieback or other plant diseases and result in longer-term loss of biodiversity.

Anecdotal advice from Shire staff in the field is that most of this activity occurs on land managed by agencies other than the Shire, and appears to be driven by collection of firewood to sell, rather than for household heating or timber products. Unauthorised logging is a state-wide issue requiring a coordinated approach across multiple State Agencies.

Investigating unauthorised logging faces many challenges across different land tenures. Shire attempts to engage and encourage greater State intervention and compliance/enforcement has not been effective.

The frequency of patrolling reserves and/or surveillance needs to be increased and on a larger scale to catch unlawful clearing offences.

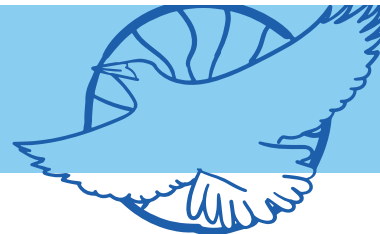
State agencies do not appear to be coordinated or adequately resourced to act on illegal logging offences. With the prospect of previously unallocated crown land transferring to control by Aboriginal Corporations, there is the potential for improvements to management in this regard.

In 2021 the State Government announced that south-west native forests are to be protected from commercial logging from 2023. However, damage from illegal logging will continue unless agencies have the on ground resources to investigate and collaborate with local government and other land managers to prosecute offences.

There are also opportunities for the State to take coordinated action to reduce the demand for illegally harvested firewood, by increasing options for legal firewood collection. There may be locations where regrowth from past logging has resulted in a much higher tree density than in old growth forests, and selective harvesting could potentially address forest structure and fire risk, at the same time as providing an alternative to illegally collected firewood.

Early consultation documents for the 2024-2033 Forest Management Plan released by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions provide an overview on ecological thinning in the south-west forest.

Local Environmental Threats



Ecological thinning is the partial reduction of overstorey stand density to improve ecological values in a forest. The benefits of carefully implemented strategic thinning can include improved forest health, with more resilient forests not under stress and competition for water.

This type of active forest management can also address bushfire risk. Thinning can promote growth of the remaining trees, better mimicking the form of old growth forests, and increasing fire resilience by reducing the potential for crown fires in heavily stocked regrowth stands. This can also enable lower intensity planned burns with reduced risk of tree death and damage.

The Shire can advocate for the State to develop detailed plans and set limits for ecological thinning in timber reserves. These should address how much vegetation can be removed, how often and where thinning would be most effective to achieve the best results. Only regrowth from past logging should be considered for thinning, to ensure habitat trees are undisturbed, and areas considered protectable from dieback should be excluded.

The Shire can also advocate for actions that reduce the demand for firewood altogether (such as incentivising or subsidising conversions to efficient electric heating), which would provide a more permanent solution to illegal firewood harvesting, and also have air quality benefits in the cooler months.

Weeds

Weeds are introduced plants that affect bushfire fuel loads and amenity as well as negative impacts on the natural environment. Weed control is a shared responsibility across all land owners and managers.

Within nature reserves the Shire generally follows the 'Bradley method' of bush regeneration. This prioritises work in the areas that are in the most natural, undisturbed state, to maintain high conservation values.

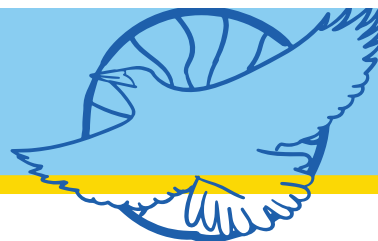
It is impossible to eradicate all weed species. Shire resources and weed control efforts must be directed to weeds that have worse impacts (such as rapid spreading, or increased bushfire risk). The Shire has developed a Priority Weeds List informed by declared Weeds of National Significance, Declared Plants in WA, [Swan Region invasiveness ratings](#), and the local knowledge and experience of Shire staff. The Priority Weeds list is included in Appendix 7.

Shire staff in the Community Safety and Emergency Management Service undertake weed control as part of reducing bushfire hazard within Shire reserves. Their efforts are focussed on weed species that can contribute significantly to bushfire fuel loads, rather than environmental or aesthetic weed issues. Their efforts are also focussed on the reserves, or parts of reserves, that are closest to residential areas. Controlled burns can contribute to weed control within natural areas, and provide an opportunity to target emergent weeds in the year after fire.

Rapid weed growth is a known problem after both bushfires and controlled burns, and can add to subsequent fuel loads and fires if not managed.

There is often financial assistance from the State Government for bushfire recovery but the funding terms may prevent effort to control weed growth, if this is seen only as an environmental issue. Weed growth after fire is also a future fire risk and can be a cause of stress for fire affected residents, in addition to impacts on biodiversity.

Local Environmental Threats



Introduced Animals

Livestock, domestic pets and feral animals all put pressure on local native species.

The direct impacts of feral predators such as cats and foxes are well known but other introduced animals can also have impacts via eating or trampling important native vegetation, competing for nest hollows and habitat, or spreading parasites and disease.

Livestock

The keeping of livestock, such as horses, sheep, cows, goats and alpaca, is a common land use for many rural lifestyle and general agriculture properties that have been historically cleared of native vegetation.

Livestock can put pressure on local native species through their impacts on the land and vegetation. The intention of the current planning controls is to manage and promote the sustainable keeping of stock on land within the Shire, in a way that preserves and enhances the rural lifestyle and amenity of the area and protects environmental assets.

The Shire's Keeping of Stock guidelines are used to assess stock management, stocking rates, pasture cover and exclusion of stock from native bushland areas and watercourses.

Overgrazing and trampling from stock causes land degradation, erosion of topsoil and loss of habitat for native animals. Many rural lifestyle properties rely on groundwater bores to irrigate their pasture in the drier seasons and to maximise the number of stock they can have on their property, however this approach needs to be reconsidered when keeping in mind the drying climate and reduction in rainfall. It is vital that we promote responsible and sustainable stock management into the future.

Pest and Feral Animals

There are a range of feral animals within the shire, and generally poor information about their numbers and location. There are efforts to remove feral pigs from state managed lands. Feral deer are an established and serious feral pest in some parts of Australia but currently occur within the shire in low numbers.

Cats are instinctive hunters that have contributed to the extinction and decline of many Australian native animals. Both domestic and feral cats threaten the survival of small birds, mammals and reptiles. Even well-fed pet cats will hunt and kill wildlife if they have access to natural areas.

Control of domestic cats is the responsibility of cat owners. Trapping and removal of feral cats is undertaken by the Shire's Community Safety and Emergency Management Service.

The Shire of Mundaring Keeping of Cats Local Law is limited in scope to the matters permitted by the state *Cat Act 2011*, which currently does not permit local laws to require cats to be contained within the owner's property.

Local Environmental Threats



Fox with prey, Glen Forrest

Foxes can have a large hunting territory that includes many native animals, supplemented by domestic poultry and pet food.

Information on the fox population within the Perth Hills is very limited and fox control can be difficult to undertake, however it is critical to ensure the survival of native species within natural areas.

Conservation areas with feral animal exclusion fencing have demonstrated the benefits for fauna recovery. However, this fencing is costly and would be very difficult to install and maintain within Shire managed conservation reserves, which also allow for recreational use and access.

While conservation organisations can maintain dedicated on site staff (including ecologists) for wildlife sanctuaries such as Karakamia, the Shire has a small number of staff managing a large number of reserves. There is also a risk of the fencing becoming a barrier to wildlife escaping a wildfire and therefore no feral animal exclusion fencing is recommended for reserves managed by the Shire.

Poison and Pollution

Careless use and storage of chemicals can result in pollution of soil, groundwater or watercourses.

Chemical spills can also occur from road accidents during transport and enter the drainage system, leading to watercourses downstream. This can cause water quality issues and cause poisoning of wildlife.

One more direct source of poisoning is through use of baits and particularly, rodenticides. Any baits or poisons have a risk of being eaten by native animals if not managed carefully.

Many poisons that are available at retail outlets for rodent control have an additional risk of 'secondary poisoning', which occurs when owls, birds of prey or other native animals eat poisoned rats and mice.

The most harmful poisons are slow acting, Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs). Rodents can eat multiple baits before dying, then native predators can eat the more heavily poisoned rodents. Some insecticides can also result in secondary poisoning.

Air pollution can also impact on native plants and animals but local governments have an extremely limited role in monitoring or protecting air quality. This is the jurisdiction of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the shire will primarily pass concerns about pollution to the appropriate agency for investigation.

Rising to the Challenge



Retaining at least 30% of the original (pre-colonisation) extent of each ecological community is recommended to prevent an exponential loss of local species and risk of ecosystem failures. Many local government areas within the south-west of Western Australia have already crossed these thresholds in terms of keeping enough of each vegetation complex, used as a proxy for ecosystem diversity. Shire of Mundaring is unique within the Perth Metropolitan Region in its opportunities to retain biodiversity for future generations to enjoy.

In addition to the Shire's natural assets, the community already places a high value on the natural environment. While there may be substantial landowner succession ahead, as long term residents can no longer safely manage their long held properties and downsize, new residents are also likely to choose to live in the shire for its natural beauty and opportunities to be close to nature.

While the threats facing our native species are serious, there are many opportunities to help them survive. New scientific research about our native species, better mapping and monitoring technology, and national carbon sequestration and biodiversity certification programs will all provide significant opportunities to improve conservation outcomes.

Vision

Community members from the Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee helped develop a long term vision for biodiversity within the Shire of Mundaring:

Biodiversity and natural areas are protected, connected and cared for through community stewardship and a strong culture of conservation.

The Shire has a significant role to play but cannot achieve this vision alone. To work towards it, Shire staff must seek collaborative partnerships, empower environmental volunteers, and support landowner conservation efforts.

Key principles have been identified that will guide efforts to protect and care for our natural heritage, and inform actions by Shire staff over the coming decade.

Rising to the Challenge



Group activities and enjoyment of the outdoors creates social harmony and a sense of wellbeing

Principles

Celebrate Nature

Caring for nature grows from understanding and connecting with nature. Shire residents should have a range of opportunities to learn about and celebrate their connections to nature. This will help foster a shared sense of custodianship of the natural environment and promote a culture that supports biodiversity conservation.

There is a significant body of research demonstrating the benefits of access to nature for individual health and wellbeing, beyond the benefits of exercise in more modified or artificial public spaces.

Childhood experiences in nature help to develop understanding of local biodiversity and connections to the natural world. Paths, trails and nature play areas allow for engagement with nature and can contribute to both physical and mental health.

Environmental art can generate individual and collective emotions that strengthen appreciation and connection to our natural

heritage. Improving the visibility of our landscapes and native species within public art such as murals, or the Shire's art collection, will help promote knowledge and a culture of custodianship.

Celebrating nature will include:

- Developing or participating in citizen science opportunities to help fill gaps in knowledge of our natural environment
- Expanding free Shire online material and publications to include more information about native animals;
- Maintaining partnerships to deliver environmental education opportunities, such as Environmental Art Project with Mundaring Arts Centre;
- Encouraging or developing public artwork celebrating local native plants, animals and cultural heritage; and
- Managing Lake Leschenaultia for a balance of recreation and conservation use, with enhanced environmental education opportunities around the Lake.

Rising to the Challenge



Expand and Support Volunteer Network

One of the Shire's great strengths is the extensive and dedicated network of environmental volunteers that undertake bushland conservation and environmental management activities within the Shire's natural areas. The Shire has many volunteers in Friends Groups and broader Catchment Groups that undertake bushcare activities in reserves.

The role of a Friends Group is to help safely maintain and enhance the environmental values of bushland areas. Friends Group volunteers collectively have made a significant difference to our environment over the years, and Shire of Mundaring is committed and proud to support our Friends Groups with access to support, training, expert advice and assistance by contractors and the Shire Landcare team.

Friends Groups / Catchment Groups can also be eligible for assistance or grant funding opportunities that the Shire alone cannot access.

Through the compilation and review of the Friends Group Manual, Shire of Mundaring continues to assist and improve outcomes for our environment.

Volunteers and the grants obtained in collaboration with volunteer groups represent 48% of the spending on nature reserves within the Shire. Environmental volunteers are therefore critical to the Shire tackling the challenges ahead.

Rising to the Challenge



Some relevant observations about volunteering trends and the Shire's current approach to Friends Groups include:

- 19% decrease recorded in people doing voluntary work in Australia from 2016 to 2021. In Shire of Mundaring the decrease was around 11%;
- Friends Groups have a long history since 1989 (33 years) and not all works completed have been recorded / collated and there is likely a wealth of local knowledge to be shared;
- The majority of members are in their 60's or above, with some younger members.
- Of the 70 registered Friends Groups in the shire, only 8 Friends Groups and one Catchment Group have received funding over the last 5 years to complete work in Shire reserves;
- Grants have been sought where volunteers are active. This does not always correlate with the location the Shire's highest priority reserves.
 - Black Cockatoo Reserves (Priority 7) – Funding sought for dieback treatment. This is the best example of funding being sought in a high priority reserve.
 - Falls Road Reserve (Priority 8) – Funding sought for minimal work in reserve. Most funding is being spent on upstream private land adjoining the reserve.
 - Boya Trail – Southern Railway Heritage Trail – Boya to Mundaring (Priority 20) – Funding is utilised on the adjoining DBCA land, rather than along the trail itself.
 - Other grants are not for reserves listed in the priority reserves report.
- Most of the top 10 priority reserves do have a registered Friends Group but with varying numbers of volunteers and levels of activity.

It is clear that we need to foster and nurture a strong volunteer network to tackle the scale of the environmental management tasks across the shire. Friends Groups also provide important opportunities to share and develop landcare skills that can be applied to natural areas on private properties.

Rising to the Challenge



Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Recent changes to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* have increased the potential penalties to staff and volunteer coordinators if an injury occurs. Providing a safe workplace continues to be a high priority of the Shire, and this extends to the safety of volunteers working in reserves.

The Shire will continue to update its Friends Group Manual to help:

- reduce risk to volunteers by restricting the use of mechanical equipment and weed control chemicals
- improve safety procedures; and
- provide updated information regarding fire management, grants and Aboriginal Heritage.

Further professional and pragmatic risk management advice would be beneficial in informing a volunteer model moving forward.

Survey results and staff observations confirm there are often unregistered contributors, who may not be covered by Shire insurance for volunteers. As well as volunteer coordinators being exposed to significant work safe risks in these instances, the removal and or planting of vegetation within reserves without permission (or without being a registered Friends Group member) could technically represent a breach of the Shire's Property Local Law.

There is more "generosity of time and spirit" from the volunteers than there are staff to monitor its application, which is a good problem to have. Given the significant contributions volunteers make, supporting volunteers and guiding and assisting them to safely undertake appropriate works is important.



Rising to the Challenge



Friends Groups have and will continue to work in their own time, at their own pace. However, in the interests of all parties, Shire must ensure all volunteers are registered and work plans are prepared; for their own continued safety, to reduce exposure to workplace safety issues, and to ensure the Shire and volunteers coordinate effort to best effect.

Every reserve is different and requires different treatment. To protect life and property from bushfire events as well as maintain biodiversity, Friends Groups and the Shire must also pursue 'balanced' outcomes. Engagement with Friends Groups will be guided by and continue to respect the wealth of local knowledge volunteers can share about their reserve.

The Shire has limited resources and does not have enough staff to comprehensively manage all nature reserves. The Friends Groups continue to provide significant support to maintain the environmental values of nature reserves. However it is also acknowledged that, due to broader social changes, there is a need to adapt and provide different opportunities for more options for volunteers to contribute. Friends Group members have often raised difficulty of recruiting new volunteers and aging of existing volunteers as issues of concern to their group.

Exploring new innovative programs and ways to engage and genuinely empower volunteers will be critical moving forward. Existing and potential volunteers should also be afforded an opportunity to inform and define their own role in relation to volunteering. New groups should also be encouraged to form around high priority nature reserves.

A range of low cost, low risk trials could be undertaken to test ideas to attract new volunteers. The trials could be monitored and feedback and improvement suggestions requested from attendees. Time should be afforded to a trial period for two years to allow sufficient community participation and feedback. This investment should help inform the Shire's longer-term approach, which may require an increase in budgets for reserve management staff or contractors if trials to recruit more volunteers are unsuccessful.

While the numbers of volunteers will fluctuate over time, the Shire will continue supporting and collaborating with Friends Groups. An important component to improving coordination will be seeking to improve mapping, planning and communication for reserves through more formalised Fire and Environmental Work Plans.



Rising to the Challenge



Enhance Reserve Management and Coordination

An opportunity exists to use the Shire's Geographic Information System (GIS) as a spatial information hub to coordinate and record observations and activities by various stakeholders.

Where management plans have been prepared these should also be noted and linked within the GIS. More technical capacity is required moving forward. It is not feasible to prepare comprehensive management plans for all nature reserves managed by the Shire. It is recommended that management plans should be prepared or updated for the ten highest priority nature reserves, based on a 2018 ecological assessment of over 50 nature reserves (nearly 900 hectares). While Lake Leschenaultia was not included in that 2018 assessment due to its separate management as a tourism and recreational site, it should obviously be included in that list for its ecological values, as well as its social and recreational significance.

The ten reserves recommended to have management plans prepared are:

- Lake Leschenaultia, Chidlow (Res. 23165)
- Alps Street Reserve, Mount Helena (Res. 34103)
- Strettle Road Reserve (Res. 32727)
- Pindalup Reserve, Wooroloo (Res. 39853)
- Superblock Reserve, Glen Forrest (Res. 50018)
- North Darlington Reserves, including Nan Macmillan (Res. 6922)
- Black Cockatoo Reserves, Mundaring (Res. 20990 & 12422)
- Falls Road Reserve, Hovea (Res. 12453)

- Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea/ Parkerville (Res. 14163)
- Callan Road Reserve, Hovea (Res. 38224)

Due to its environmental values, high visitation and bushfire risk, Lake Leschenaultia will require a more comprehensive plan to protect the Lake itself and its natural surroundings while allowing for safe and appropriate recreational uses.

However, other nature reserves containing more than two hectares of native vegetation are also recommended to have shorter, more action based Fire and Environmental Work Plans prepared to better coordinate effort between the Emergency Management, Parks Teams, and Friends Groups. Priority for preparation of these Plans will be reserves with registered Friends Groups where bushfire mitigation works are planned soon.

A Fire and Environmental Work Plan may be used as an interim plan, to inform preparation of a full management plan when possible.

Rising to the Challenge



Plans will be reserves with registered Friends Groups where bushfire mitigation works are planned soon. A Fire and Environmental Work Plan may be used as an interim plan, to inform preparation of a full management plan when possible.

Currently the Shire does not have resources to prepare management plans in-house. A business case is recommended for external consultants to prepare a management plan for Lake Leschenaultia. For other reserves, a business case is recommended to employ additional staff to map and monitor the condition of nature reserves, develop and implement plans, and coordinate weed control efforts and conservation activities with bushfire mitigation actions.

The most significant and reliable external funding for nature reserve management is from the DFES Mitigation Action Fund. Investments in weed control to address bushfire fuel loads have biodiversity and community co-benefits, but not all weeds will be eligible for treatment under MAF. Coordination of fire mitigation works with Parks staff and Friends Group effort will achieve greater results across the range of priority weed species. Targeted training and engagement in research efforts would assist by enhancing the environmental science knowledge base of staff involved in reserve management.

Some fire mitigation works, including firebreak installation and planned burns, have potential to conflict with volunteer efforts. Improving monitoring of environmental values following planned burns will help to continuously improve Shire fire mitigation work on reserves, but also inform better advice from the Fire and Environmental staff to landowners managing the much larger sum of natural areas.

Where there is potential for conflicting advice to be provided on biodiversity conservation efforts and bushfire safety requirements, it is important that a coordinated approach with consistent advice is developed and delivered to residents.

Given that management for bushfire risk is likely to be the primary driver for management of local natural areas across all land managers, integrating biodiversity conservation with fire mitigation is one of the most significant directions of this Local Biodiversity Strategy. However, this requires intensive, ongoing environmental staff involvement with the planning and implementation of fire mitigation works and advice to residents both generally and on a property by property basis. To achieve this there are options to locate additional environmental staff in different service areas (Parks; Planning & Environment; Emergency Management).

These would be developed in more detail in the forthcoming business case but it is anticipated that the most effective arrangement may be a fire ecologist or environmental fire officer, embedded within the Emergency Management team, to help shape both Shire fire mitigation actions within reserves and broader community practices on private land. The opportunity for Indigenous Ranger or Fire Management trainees should also be explored.

Over time, a reserve rationalisation initiative could identify reserves with low social and ecological values that may be more suited to alternative uses. In most cases the reserves are Crown land and the sale or lease of land by the State does not generate any income for the Shire. However, a reduction in the total number of reserves would enable the Shire's staff and resources to be focussed on more significant areas for greater community benefit.

Rising to the Challenge



Support Conservation on Private Land

Private landowners manage far more land and natural areas in total than the Shire. The long term viability of conservation reserves also depends on the retention and management of natural areas on the land around them.

While revegetated areas can eventually develop into important habitat, retaining existing natural areas it is far more effective and will conserve a wider range of species. Protections for local natural areas were embedded into the Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 based on the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009, and will continue under the new Strategy.

Protection through the planning framework can prevent inappropriate clearing, but usually cannot mandate active care or mandate ongoing management to tackle threatening processes.

Support for landowners to undertake active management and enhance biodiversity can include general information, tailored advice, and opportunities to participate in local or regional projects.

Some direct assistance may be available for certain initiatives (particularly where grant funding has been obtained) for landowners who are custodians of important habitat and watercourses. In many cases the first step will be improving the information available to landholders. This can be supported by semi-automated reports about the potential environmental values, but mapping is a tool that needs to be complemented by site visits to more accurately understand and communicate biodiversity values.

The Shire's innovative Environmental Asset Inspections service was developed to help landowners achieve more balanced bushfire and environmental outcomes through early intervention, often meeting landowners and bushfire consultants on site before plans have been drawn up. The initiative was recognised in 2018-2019 at a State and National level as best practice. Importantly, the service was only possible through reallocation of Environmental Officer time earlier into the development process and a partial offset of costs through a minor fee for the service.

The Environmental Asset Inspections have generally only been suggested to landowners seeking to build or subdivide on land containing mapped Local Natural Areas (LNA). Environmental Officer time is limited and effort has been prioritised towards landowners who are actively pursuing development, where there is a risk of environmental damage. However, the service is valued and positive feedback has received such as:

A) I am more than happy to provide feedback on the EAI service and advise which the Shire has provided to date.

As never having undertaken this type of project before I have been very grateful for the Shire's willingness to explain and advise regarding the different aspects and processes. In addition the cooperation with the site visit with all parties was exceptionally beneficial to all. For your information the planning consultant and the bushfire planning consultant both commented on how well it was articulated. Many thanks.

Rising to the Challenge



Shire Staff can map and mark habitat trees for retention during site visits

B) ...The inspection was a very positive experience, with our own knowledge being much expanded by the detailed (and impressive) knowledge that you brought to bear on our piece of land.

We were also very struck by the speed with which you grasped the details of the block layout, potential plans for the site and the issues involved. We have recommended the process to others in our area. It was also very heartening to find how well our values and those of the Shire aligned, the preservation of the unique features of local natural wildlife and the enhancement of local fire safety measures.

A modified version of the Environmental Asset Inspection service should be developed which provides landowners with a basic map of natural features, to support conservation initiatives rather than development. The map and planned revegetation or other works would also need to have regard to fire safety and careful fuel load management.

This service can also link landowners to other support including the ReWild initiative from Perth NRM and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 'Land for Wildlife' program.

It should be noted that the Land for Wildlife program has an online presence and maintains advisory material, but does not currently have adequate staff and resources to provide for site visits, advice or assistance to residents.

The Shire can advocate for increased funding to improve this important conservation initiative. In addition the Shire can seek to develop or adapt local 'Land for Wildlife' material to encourage residents to undertake active management to maintain biodiversity.

New resources may become available through national or state initiatives to sequester carbon through revegetation. While it is possible that initiatives on local government managed land may be eligible for support, the greatest opportunity is likely to be for larger landholders - particularly in agricultural zones (including areas affected by salinity).

The Shire can play a key role in collating and sharing accurate information about biodiversity certificates and carbon credit programs with potential participants.

While conservation efforts on larger landholdings can have greater impact on biodiversity at the landscape scale, every resident has some opportunity to support biodiversity conservation.

Landscaping features and gardens of all sizes within the urban landscape also have an important role to play in the sustainability of biodiversity. Native gardens and verges can contribute important food sources, water and shelter for pollinators and wildlife, and can increase the viability of nearby local natural areas through reduced weed invasion.

Rising to the Challenge



Strengthen Wildlife Corridor Network

Watercourses are important environmental features, linked strongly to the community's sense of place and wellbeing. They have multiple functions including important recreational areas, historical, spiritual and cultural values, and supporting native flora and fauna populations.

The Shire's original Wildlife Corridor Strategy approach in 2000 adapted State Government watercourse mapping, to designate all watercourses within the Shire as wildlife corridors.

Using watercourses as wildlife corridors has merit due to importance of water availability and riparian habitat for many species, and the increased protection of vegetation along watercourses through the planning system.

However, designation of all watercourses as wildlife corridors meant that highly modified drainage systems in urban areas were also included, and no terrestrial corridors were identified through native vegetation separate to watercourses.

In 2004 the Perth Biodiversity Project (hosted by the Western Australian Local Government Association) mapped Regional Ecological Linkages across the Perth Metropolitan Region.

These Regional Ecological Linkages are 500m wide and aim to connect regionally significant natural areas, such as national and regional parks, including local nature reserves and other remnant vegetation as stepping stones. The aim was to maintain the ecological viability of those regionally significant natural areas by maintaining landscape level connections between them, allowing for the continued movement of wildlife, which also allows for pollination and seed dispersal to maintain plant biodiversity.

The process used to identify the Regional Ecological Linkages deliberately targeted connections following more secure areas of native vegetation, including reserves. Location within a Regional Ecological Linkage informed the prioritisation of Local Natural Areas for protection in the Shire's 2009 Local Biodiversity Strategy, which was then given effect through the update of the Local Planning Strategy and gazettal of Local Planning Scheme No. 4 in 2014.

In 2021, staff of the Western Australian Local Government Association advised that the Regional Ecological Linkages had been reviewed, were still considered current, and not proposed to be updated. Subsequent review by Shire staff has confirmed that these Linkages are well located and still valid, and should be considered as wildlife corridors under the revised Local Biodiversity Strategy. However there was a need for additional, local level wildlife corridors to form a 'web' of finer scale connections between the Shire's significant local reserves and regionally significant natural areas.

In 2021 consultants were engaged by the Shire to review available spatial datasets and methodologies and produce updated local wildlife corridor mapping. A hybrid model was devised, which included the higher order watercourses produced during development of the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy as well as connections between high priority local nature reserves and regional ecological linkages. The Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy has been prepared concurrently by the Shire with a focus on identifying stormwater management and development standards based on watercourse characteristics. The wildlife corridor mapping and more information about the process are included in Appendix 3.

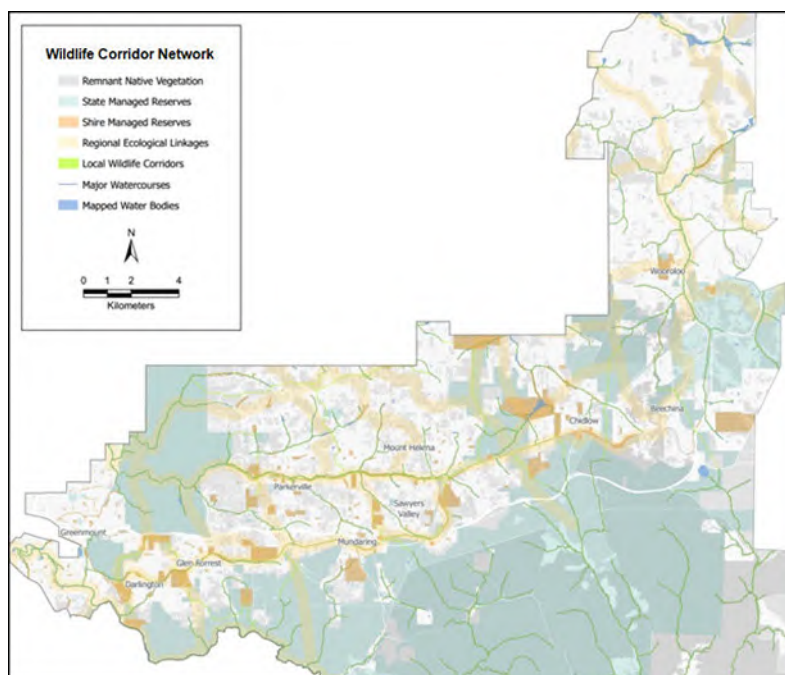
Rising to the Challenge



It must be emphasised that there are important habitats and areas of wildlife movement that are outside of the Regional Ecological Linkages and mapped local wildlife corridors. Any remaining natural area within the Shire will be, in some way, part of a wildlife movement network. An aim of both the Linkages and local corridors is to prioritise effort and resource allocation to specific areas that have greater potential to influence the viability of surrounding natural areas and maintain landscape connections and biodiversity long term.

The term 'wildlife corridor network' within this strategy refers to the network of Regional Ecological Linkages and local wildlife corridors. Strengthening the wildlife corridor network will include:

- Developing new initiatives to manage introduced pests and increase habitat values within or adjacent to mapped corridors;
- Where appropriate, targeting acquisition of public open space and new conservation reserves to support wildlife corridors; and
- Promoting Land for Wildlife initiatives and prioritising environmental advice to landowners who are custodians of sections of wildlife corridors.



Overview of Corridor Network: Local Wildlife Corridors with Regional Ecological Linkages

It is important to note that there are many multi-use corridors within the wildlife corridor network, which can include footpaths, cycle ways, and bridle trails. Identification of a wildlife corridor does not prevent continued diverse uses but will require more careful management and planning of infrastructure upgrades.

Rising to the Challenge



Improving Animal Management

Introduced animals have a range of impacts on native species and natural areas. This includes predation and injury caused by household pets; land degradation and loss of habitat due to horses and livestock; and predation and habitat disruption by feral animals.

Planning controls on keeping of horses and livestock help preserve local natural areas and avoid land degradation. These are already established within the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No. 4 and Shire Guidelines for Keeping of Stock are regularly reviewed to reflect current stocking rates and other recommendations from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The Shire should continue to draw upon expert agricultural science to inform stocking rates.

Domestic pets including cats and dogs can have significant impacts on wildlife on or near their owner's property. The keeping of cats and dogs is governed by State legislation that provides for local governments to make corresponding local laws.

While dogs can be required to be contained on the owner's property with adequate fencing, currently the State legislation does not allow for a local law to require the same of cats. Advocacy for an amendment to the *Cat Act 2011* is recommended to allow for better containment of pet cats to reduce their impacts on native animals.

Feral animals including cats, pigs and foxes can range across State, Shire, and privately owned land. Pest birds including rainbow lorikeets, corella species and pink and grey galahs can compete aggressively for resources and nesting hollows, threatening the breeding success of local native species. Advocacy is recommended for greater effort and coordination of feral animal control within the very large areas of State managed land within the Shire, including National Parks and water catchment areas.

The Shire's Community Safety rangers assist residents with the trapping and removal of feral cats. There is currently no equivalent program for foxes or other feral animals. A previous initiative to loan large cage traps to residents was ended due to the extremely low fox

Rising to the Challenge



Trapping of foxes on reserves carries risks of harm to other animals, particularly where surrounding pets are not adequately contained, or warning signs to keep dogs on leashes are ignored. Trapping of foxes on private land reduces the risk of capturing dogs, but is expensive for individual landowners to engage contractors if they are not prepared to handle the trapping and euthanasia themselves. Further investigation of options, partnerships and other support for feral animal control is required.

Smaller feral animals including rabbits and rodents can directly compete with native animals for resources. Chemical baits and rodenticides used to target pest species can be eaten by other animals, including wildlife. For rabbits there is an alternative available which is a rabbit-specific virus, which has been released nationally since 2017 to aid in rabbit control. Residents are able to undertake online training through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on how to conduct their own virus release where rabbit numbers are high.

For rodents there are a range of traps available, as well as different kinds of bait that will reduce the risks of secondary poisoning.

While there are also risks to other animals including reptiles and other birds of prey, declaring the Shire of Mundaring as an 'Owl Friendly' area would build on an established secondary poisoning awareness raising initiative that has been successful elsewhere in Western Australia.

Improving animal management will include:

- Promoting responsible pet ownership and livestock management
- Advocating for effective control of feral animals within State Government lands
- Controlling feral animals within Shire managed reserves;
- Seeking or providing feral animal control assistance for residents;
- Raising community awareness of the risks of baits and of secondary poisoning to promote safer use.

Declaring the Shire to be 'Owl Friendly' provides an opportunity to quickly draw attention to the issue of secondary poisoning from rodenticides and encourage residents to immediately change pest management practices, as review of the issue by the federal regulator (Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority) will take time.



Rising to the Challenge



Provide Water for Wildlife

Climate change has already reduced the amount of rainfall received within the Shire, as well as altered annual patterns and increased the likelihood of weather extremes. Because the soil is dryer and evaporation is higher, the reduction in streamflow is larger than the reduction in rainfall.

Maintaining water for wildlife will include:

- Leading by example through installing more watering stations within Shire managed reserves;
- Encouraging more residents and schools to add water into gardens, including bird baths and ground level water dishes;
- Rehabilitation of priority watercourses within Shire managed reserves; and
- Revising guidelines for dams to recognise that retaining water in the landscape can provide critical habitat in a drying climate, and recommend practical improvements to dams to improve habitat values and water retention.

Increasing the availability of water in the landscape will make a significant difference to the survival of wildlife in drought and heatwaves.

Support Artificial Habitats

The survival of some species may be supported by the provision of artificial nest boxes and other habitat features. While they should never be seen as a full substitute for the original habitat tree or natural area, they are still an important way for residents to support 'backyard biodiversity'.

Supporting artificial habitats will include:

- Making information on native animals and their habitat requirements easier to access;
- Encouraging and supporting residents to install nest boxes and other helpful habitat structures in locations that can support a range of species;
- Installing and monitoring more nest boxes within Shire managed reserves; and
- Mapping and temporarily marking trees with nest boxes for additional precautions before planned burns.

In many cases more research will be needed to determine what the most appropriate structures or features to support particular species.

Rising to the Challenge



Knowledge and Research

Given the landscape scale issues faced by the Shire, broad scale monitoring using remote data must form part of the approach moving forward. The Shire recently acquired detailed LiDAR mapping, used to create a digital elevation model (DEM) to inform stream network mapping. This data, combined with other sources, has other potential uses, from detailed slope analysis for fire mitigation planning, to improved vegetation mapping. The full benefit of this data is yet to be realised due to resourcing issues.

There is uncertainty whether the State Government will improve the collection and sharing of remotely collected data, which could reduce costs, duplication of effort and inconsistent collection between local governments.

Greater investment in the Shire's mapping capabilities, in a manner that improves land management practices is an opportunity requiring further resources and time.

There are opportunities to significantly improve local mapping of environmental assets and issues and better share information between Shire staff, residents and volunteers. The need for a system that provides for a two-way flow of information has been noted during consultation with catchment groups.

As noted elsewhere in this Strategy, there are many knowledge gaps in terms of how native species currently interact in their ecosystems as well as how this may alter due to climate change. The Shire will rarely be the best candidate to lead a research project but can be a collaborator, contributor and distributor of useful findings.

Opportunities for Shire staff, residents and environmental volunteers to participate in citizen science projects can yield significant new data and observations. Partnerships with research institutions, not-for-profit organisations and other land managers should be considered where they can lead to improved land management and biodiversity



Rising to the Challenge



Limit Disease and Dieback Spread

Phytophthora Dieback is a deadly introduced plant disease that is a major threat to local native plants and animals. It is a tiny water mould that attacks the roots of plants and causes them to rot. It lives in soil and infected plant tissue, and over 40% of WA native plant species can be killed or badly weakened by the *Phytophthora cinnamomi* (and to some extent, other introduced *Phytophthora* species).

The movement of infected soil, plant material or water containing dieback spores can spread Dieback into new areas and cause trees and bushland to die off. Native animals can then be affected if they are reliant on susceptible plant species for their food sources and habitat.

Unfortunately *Phytophthora* Dieback is already found in many areas of the Shire including road verges, bushland and gardens. A mapping project that took samples from conservation reserves for laboratory testing has confirmed that many of our reserves are partly infested and the disease will continue to slowly spread downhill with water movement.

Uninfested areas that are still protectable from *Phytophthora* Dieback are therefore a conservation priority. In areas free of Dieback, the vulnerable plant species can continue to thrive, providing opportunities for seed collection and providing habitat for native fauna.

Limiting dieback spread will include:

- Developing training and induction materials for Shire staff;
- Improving supervision of contractors working on Shire reserves or road reserves
- Planning works to minimise risk including machinery clean down areas, and working in dieback free areas first;
- Maintaining Dieback status guide posts in reserves to indicating Dieback Free and Dieback Infested Areas; and
- Improving information available about Dieback and practical measures to avoid introducing or spreading it.

Hygiene measures for Dieback will also help to minimise spread of other soil based diseases. Emerging threats such as myrtle rust fungus (*Austropuccinia psidii*) may be more difficult to control if it reaches the south-west of Western Australia. In each case, maintaining forest health may include revegetating affected areas with more resistant plants.

This will usually mean using seed from naturally resistant individual plants, but further research will be required to inform these approaches. There is more information about Dieback in Appendix 6.



Dieback Panorama Alps Street Reserve Terratree 2020

Rising to the Challenge



Integrating Conservation with Bushfire Mitigation

Protecting life and property is paramount within State and Local Government bushfire mitigation plans but protecting the natural environment is also a consideration. Intense landscape-scale wildfires are devastating to wildlife as well as humans. Bushfire preparedness is therefore critical to sustain the Shire’s biodiversity as well as protect residents and communities.

The Shire fulfils three key functions in relation to bushfire preparedness, which provide three opportunities to demonstrate or advocate for integrating biodiversity conservation with fire mitigation:

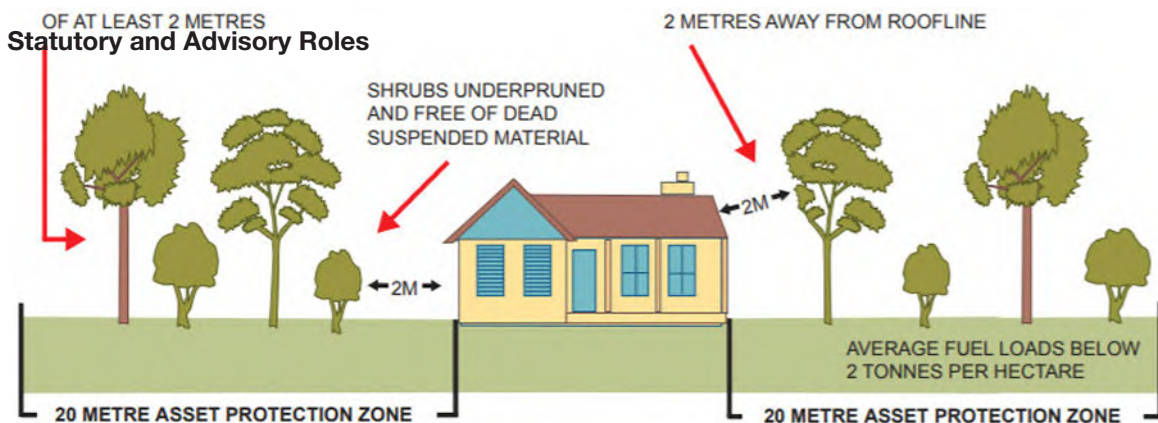
- Statutory and Advisory Roles (for private land, including local implementation of *Planning and Development Act 2005*, *Bushfires Act 1954*, and *Emergency Management Act 2005* and hazard plans such as State Hazard Plan - Fire)
- Land Manager (for Shire owned land and Shire managed reserves, as per Bushfire Risk Management Plan)
- Advocate (for State owned land and State managed reserves, as per Bushfire Risk Management Plan).

The Shire oversees consideration of approximately 500 planning applications and makes recommendations on approximately 50 subdivision applications per year. Local Planning Scheme No. 4 provides for consideration of both environmental protection and bushfire safety in decisions for development in bushfire prone areas.

The Shire also advises residents on bushfire safety and enforces requirements for preparation in accordance with the annual Firebreak and Fuel Loads Notice.

Both Planning and Emergency Management staff follow advice from DFES, including the Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines. This provides for more intensive fuel load management in the area immediately surrounding a house or habitable building (at least 20m, but can be further depending on slope).

The Shire’s Firebreak and Fuel Load Notice emphasises the importance of managing ground and mid-storey ‘ladder’ fuels. Ideally, application fuel reduction standards would be simple and consistent across development proposals through the planning system and the Shire’s annual FFL Notice.



Rising to the Challenge



State government support for local government-wide variation or standards differs across agencies. Given the gravity of risks, solid evidence based research is required for the Shire to confidently recalibrate the ‘bar’ within the planning system to better align with the Perth hills vegetation types and community expectations.

The FFL notice already enables a degree of autonomy in setting standards. Since this matter was highlighted by the Shire, it is noted the Bushfire Centre of Excellence has been created, with the aim to improve the collective understanding of fire management in the Western Australian vegetation complexes, geology and conditions. Extension of policy approaches developed in other states with other types of vegetation has been a critical barrier to informing a more nuanced approach to bushfire planning policy in WA.

As the State planning bushfire framework continues to evolve and be reviewed, the Shire will continue to actively participate and advocate for requirements that align with local vegetation types, geography and compliance regimes.

Land Manager & Advocate - BRMP

The State’s introduction of the Bushfire Risk Management Framework and Mitigation Activity Fund has increased the Shire’s capacity to manage fuel reduction and other mitigation activities. It has also heightened understanding of risks across all tenures.

The Shire’s Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) has been approved by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management and adopted by Council. It sets out a five year plan of firebreak improvements and fuel reduction works to protect critical infrastructure, particularly urban settlements, infrastructure and sensitive land uses.

Significantly, the total expenditure on Shire reserves from the Mitigation Activity Fund for last 3 years has reached \$1,778,270. A large portion (estimated at \$687,857) has been directed to fuel reduction via weed control over the last three years. This represents 38% of the total MAFS expenditure, and weed control will continue to be a significant element of fuel load reduction and fire mitigation works each year. The application of MAFS funding to weed control and other work that offers co-benefits for bushfire preparedness but also biodiversity conservation should continue.

Rising to the Challenge



Advocacy using BRMP

The Shire also has an obligation to advise other landowners and managers, including State agencies, of their obligations under the endorsed BRMP. As has been noted, the largest land managers within the Shire are State agencies. These often have different budgets and targets for annual fuel reduction, risk appetites and awareness of local issues.

The BRMP, as a State endorsed mechanism, enables the Shire to be in a strong position to advocate for particular outcomes and careful mitigation work with State agencies. Continued communication, collaboration and learning across stakeholders is critical to both bushfire preparedness and biodiversity outcomes. There are opportunities to draw together information from a range of sources to continue to improve land management for both.

Two-way science refers to the process of sharing and integrating Aboriginal traditional ecological knowledge with current scientific research. Some elements of traditional fire management have already been adopted by Shire staff undertaking bushfire risk mitigation work within reserves.

These include mosaic burning, cool burns, and removing the fuel around important trees before burning. Further guidance is expected to be developed by the Bushfire Centre of Excellence.

The South West Native Title Settlement process will result in the transfer of significant areas of land into the care of the Noongar Boodja Trust. This may provide more opportunities to share knowledge between Shire staff, bushfire researchers, and Noongar Corporations that are established to manage different lands.

Over the last decade there has been a significant increase in research and scientific understanding of bushfire behaviour and effectiveness of mitigation measures. However, there are still many questions that require further investigation, particularly in Western Australian forests and taking into account accelerating climate change.

The Shire engaged consultants in 2021 to prepare a summary of ecological fire management based on current scientific understanding and used the Glen Forrest Superblock as a case study. This is summarised in Appendix 5.

Using two-way science to inform bushfire mitigation will include:

- Seeking to learn from both past Aboriginal burning practices and current research to continuously improve the Shire practices;
- Facilitating knowledge sharing between bushfire researchers, practitioners, residents, and traditional owners; and
- Directing efforts toward bushfire mitigation actions that will have the greatest bushfire safety benefits for the community with the least environmental impact.

The landscape has changed through settlement, logging, weed invasion and now climate change, but there are still important elements from traditional fire management that will align closely with the science and should be used to inform fire mitigation in a custodianship approach.

Rising to the Challenge



Shire's Role Moving Forward

The previous biodiversity strategy achieved significant improvements to the Shire's planning and environmental regulatory framework, particularly vegetation protection provisions on private land. Given the extent of natural areas remaining on private land, continuation of this approach to planning and development will continue to be a priority.

However, a regulatory approach can only go so far and is framed to prevent the worst of environmental outcomes. Regulation and rule setting to prevent clearing does not empower landowners to actively manage for biodiversity conservation or automatically develop a deeper sense of custodianship.

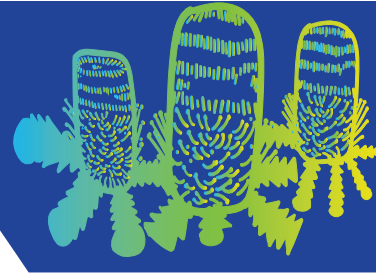
A suite of other initiatives are required, including careful integration with fire mitigation.

The Shire's capacity to undertake, intervene or guide natural area management varies depending on the ownership or land tenure. The Shire needs to advocate, collate information and help induce commitment and appropriate action from various landowners and stakeholders.

Harnessing significant insights and observations from volunteers and residents will be critical to improving knowledge and future management. Improving biodiversity outcomes across this landscape therefore requires sustained and simultaneous investment across the Shire's various roles and responsibilities.



Actions to Protect our Biodiversity



The approaches and principles outlined above have been addressed across different land tenures, where the Shire has different opportunities to promote biodiversity conservation. Nature reserves that the Shire manages directly are important, but they will not be viable long term if they are not connected to a surrounding network of natural areas on State Government and private land.

Objectives and **achievable** actions have been identified to support private landowners in responsible custodianship of natural areas (including verges), improve Shire management of nature reserves, and advocate for effective biodiversity conservation measures on State Government lands. These are listed in tables below with the timeframe indicated as:

Short: 2023 - 2025 | Medium: 2025 - 2027 | Long: 2027 - 2030

Actions listed as 'Ongoing' represent a continuation of a current service level. Actions listed with a 'Short' timeframe are logical extensions to the current service level, or high priority actions relating to strategic needs (such as integrating conservation and fire mitigation). **Highest priority** actions which will increase staff for environmental management are marked *.

This Strategy should be subject to a major review in 2030, with a midway update to mapping and review of listed actions planned for 2026/2027.

Table 1 Actions relating to Shire managed nature reserves

Managing Nature Reserves

Objective: Improve management of nature reserves to address threatening processes and maintain habitat values.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
1.1	Continue to target priority weed species following the 'Bradley Method' of bush regeneration, along with opportunistic weed control.	Ongoing	Parks
1.2	Maintain Landcare Team support, access to native seedlings, training and networking opportunities for Friends Groups.	Ongoing	Parks
1.3	Continue annual surveys and requests for annual work plans from Friends Groups, to help identify potential grant applications and avoid conflict with Shire works.	Ongoing	Parks

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
1.4	Provide guidance and practical support for Friends Groups and Catchment Groups applying for grant funding for environmental restoration works, with effort prioritised based on conservation values and likely outcomes.	Ongoing	Parks
1.5	Continue to recommend protection of environmental features and watercourse restoration as conditions of subdivision and development, and where necessary require a maintenance period in addition for land to be ceded as Public Open Space/ Drainage.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
1.6	Continue to enhance bushfire risk mitigation approaches and activities, including strategic burning that provides for a range of habitat / fuel ages within conservation reserves.	Ongoing	Emergency Management
1.7	Advocate for state bushfire mitigation funding to be allocated based on risk, and specifically permitted to be used on weed control, which reduces ongoing fuel loads as well as supporting biodiversity outcomes.	Short	Emergency Management
1.8	Develop a template and begin preparing Fire and Environmental Work Plans with input from adjoining residents and the relevant Friends Group to map significant environmental features, better coordinate pre-fire preparation and post-fire weed control, and reduce potential for conflict between landcare / revegetation efforts and bushfire mitigation activities.	Short	Emergency Management; Parks
1.9	Develop a process to review work plans prepared by Friends Groups for annual revegetation using Seedlings for Landcare program, and proposed grant applications, to ensure they will not conflict with planned parks or bushfire mitigation works (or Fire and Environmental Work Plans, where prepared).	Short	Parks; Emergency Management
1.10	Review practices for managing contractors and supporting environmental volunteers working on reserves to address implications of the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i> .	Short	Parks
1.11	Review opportunities for regional programs with Perth NRM and other Local Governments, such as Eastern Region Catchment Management Program. [Business Case may be required.]	Short	Parks; Planning & Environment
1.12	Improve Shire mapping of reserves and investigate options to provide or improve community reporting tools for invasive weed infestations, feral animals, erosion and other issues of concern in a way that supports a two-way flow of information.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
1.13	Identify biodiverse reference sites within reserves that can be visited by Friends Groups and residents to help plan rehabilitation of similar areas.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks
1.14	Trial Friends Group Reserve signage to signify a Friends Group reserve and promote volunteerism.	Short	Parks
1.15	Hold novel events and undertake low risk trial activities to explore new ways to attract environmental volunteers, with outcomes to inform the Shire's environmental volunteer engagement model and an update of the Friends Group Manual.	Short	Parks
1.16	Revise priority weeds list based on changes to state and national pest plant listings and observations of volunteers and shire staff working on reserves.	Short	Parks; Emergency Management
1.17	Develop a business case for recurring dieback treatment and mapping to maintain ecological values in priority reserves.	Short	Parks; Planning & Environment
1.18	Engage consultants to develop a comprehensive Lake Leschenaultia Management Plan to protect and enhance the Lake's environmental values whilst allowing for a range of nature-based recreational activities.	Short	Recreation & Leisure; Planning & Environment
1.19	Develop a low cost annual program to monitor surface water quality within Jane Brook, Susannah Brook, Wooroloo Brook, Woodbridge Creek and the Helena River in consultation with Catchment Groups and relevant State Government agencies.	Short	Parks;
1.20	Develop nature play areas, interpretive signage and activities to enhance the environmental education opportunities at Lake Leschenaultia.	Short	Recreation & Leisure; Planning & Environment
1.21 *	Develop a business case to provide additional resources (which may include a fire ecologist or similar) to map and monitor condition of nature reserves, develop and implement plans for priority reserves, and coordinate weed control efforts and conservation activities with bushfire mitigation actions.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks; Emergency Management
1.22 *	Increase on-ground resources for Shire management of natural areas and support for environmental volunteers. [Business case required.]	Short	Parks
1.23	Outline the Shire's intent within the Public Open Space (POS) Strategy to use POS developer contributions to enhance social and ecological functions, including upgrading or establishing multi-purpose access trails, installing nature play areas and sculptural water stations within reserves.	Medium	Planning & Environment
1.24	Seek funding to install wildlife watering stations in locations that also will provide environmental education and bird watching opportunities.	Medium	Parks

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
1.25	Develop or adapt a citizen science program to map orchids within nature reserves to inform Shire management actions and Friends Group activities.	Medium	Parks; Planning & Environment
1.26	Develop or update Reserve Management Plans for the ten highest priority conservation reserves with areas considered protectable from dieback long term – including: Lake Leschenaultia, Chidlow (Res. 23165) Alps Street Reserve, Mount Helena (Res. 34103) Strettle Road Reserve (Res. 32727) Pindalup Reserve, Wooroloo (Res. 39853) Superblock Reserve, Glen Forrest (Res. 50018) North Darlington Reserves, incl. Nan Macmillan (Res. 6922) Black Cockatoo Reserves, Mundaring (Res. 20990 & 12422) Falls Road Reserve, Hovea (Res. 12453) Hovea Conservation Park, Hovea/Parkerville (Res. 14163) Callan Road Reserve, Hovea (Res. 38224)	Medium/ Long	Parks; Emergency Management
1.27	Trial use of QR codes on signage at selected reserves to connect Friends Group members, residents and visitors to online information about the site (such as natural features, recreational opportunities, park infrastructure, dieback hygiene, and potential hazards).	Medium	Parks; Recreation & Leisure
1.28	Improve signage in natural areas within reserves, particularly Lake Leschenaultia and the Railway Reserves Heritage Trail.	Medium	Parks; Recreation & Leisure
1.29	To better direct management effort and resources towards areas of greater conservation value, review reserves under 0.5 hectares and identify land with low ecological and recreational values, to consider for rezoning or alternate land uses (subject to community consultation) .	Medium	Parks; Planning & Environment
1.30	Monitor opportunities for research, partnerships and funding for climate adaptation planting initiatives based on projected mid-century climatic conditions, including targeted seed collection.	Medium/ Long	Planning & Environment; Parks
1.31	Develop proposals for alternate land uses for reserves identified as having low ecological and recreational values, enabling resources to be redirected towards remaining reserves.	Long	Planning & Environment
1.32	Explore potential for a portion of Quail Street Reserve to be incorporated into the Karakamia Wildlife Sanctuary, managed by the Australian Wildlife Conservancy with feral predator exclusion fencing.	Long	Parks; Emergency Management
1.33	Review resources required for effective ongoing management of conservation reserves following reserve rationalisation, ceding of new public open space through subdivision, and changes to environmental volunteering and grant programs.	Long	Parks; Emergency Management

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Table 2 Actions relating to private land and custodianship

Custodianship of Natural Assets

Objective: Protect natural areas and encourage their responsible use and enjoyment; provide a range of opportunities to learn about nature; and foster a culture of conservation and custodianship.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
2.1	Improve mapping and delineation of watercourses and Local Natural Areas within the local planning framework, including updating of maps as better information becomes available.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
2.2	Maintain Environmental Asset Inspection Service and Environmental Officer capacity to advise on development proposals to retain and enhance natural features where possible.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
2.3	Maintain Seedlings for Landcare Program which supports rehabilitation efforts on rural zoned land and schools, as well as volunteers working on Shire managed reserves.	Ongoing	Parks
2.4	Continually review bushfire mitigation advice services for residents including workshops on how to plan mosaic burning, conduct cool burns to minimise environmental damage, and manage weeds pre and post burn.	Ongoing	Emergency Management
2.5	Maintain and regularly update print materials including brochures, information sheets and free booklets that help residents understand and care for the natural environment.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
2.6	Maintain environmental education initiatives including Six Seasons newsletter, talks and workshops, development of video and online content, and Environmental Art Project.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
2.7	Increase capacity of Environmental Service to provide site visits and advice to residents about managing their local natural areas, restoration of watercourses and wildlife corridors, weed control, nest boxes and other habitat enhancement options.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.8	Maintain protection of local natural areas and seek opportunities for further integration of this Local Biodiversity Strategy and the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy into the Local Planning Scheme and Local Planning Strategy when these documents are reviewed.	Short	Planning & Environment

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
2.9	Advocacy to the State and Commonwealth Governments for stronger environmental protection legislation and more funding for science-based environmental restoration programs.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.10	Ensure linkages identified within the wildlife corridor network are considered and protected where possible through land use planning and other mechanisms.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks
2.11	Advocate for improved funding and capability for the Land for Wildlife program hosted by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.12	Develop a local Land for Wildlife service to provide environmental site visits and advice, promote directly to residents who are custodians of mapped wildlife corridors, and prioritise requests based on conservation values and opportunities.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.13	Develop new resources (including web content, brochures and free booklets) and conservation action kits for local native animals – available to all residents but promoted directly to residents who are custodians of mapped wildlife corridors.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.14	Source or develop web content and supporting citizen science materials to encourage residents and volunteers to record species sightings through national citizen science platforms including iNaturalist, FrogID, Birddata and the Atlas of Living Australia.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.15	Seek partnerships and funding for citizen science initiatives to improve knowledge of native animals, plants and fungi.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.16	Declare the Shire of Mundaring to be Owl Friendly and provide promotional and educational material about the harm of secondary poisoning to pets and wildlife from some rodenticides.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.17	Revise guidelines for dams to promote features that improve habitat values, and recognise that retaining water in the landscape can provide critical habitat in a drying climate.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.18	Prepare or promote information about the responsible use and storage of chemicals to prevent watercourse and groundwater pollution.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.19	Continue to promote responsible cat ownership and outdoor cat runs to limit impacts on native animals.	Short	Community Safety

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
2.20	Advocate to the State Government to amend the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> , enabling the Shire to amend its Local Law to restrict cats to a property and increase penalties.	Short	Community Safety
2.21	Investigate options and develop a service or program that supports control of feral animals on private land.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.22	Seek opportunities to exchange information and collaborate with traditional owners managing conservation lands as part of Noongar Land Estate.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.23	Invite traditional owners managing lands within the Shire as part of the Noongar Land Estate to nominate for Environmental Advisory Committee membership, and/or nominate their preferred engagement method.	Short	Planning & Environment
2.24	Collaborate with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, traditional owners, Catchment Groups and other stakeholders to support Helena River restoration works.	Short/ Medium	Parks
2.25	Consider amendment to Art Collection Policy (OR-09) to include works that celebrate the natural landscape and native species found within the Shire.	Medium	Community Engagement
2.26	Seek partnerships and funding for murals and public art projects that incorporate local native species and landscapes.	Medium	Community Engagement
2.27	Seek partnerships and funding to deliver an event/s that supports nature based tourism and celebrates the natural beauty of the Shire, raises awareness of native plants and animals, encourages responsible pet and livestock ownership, and promotes sustainable and self-sufficient lifestyles.	Medium	Recreation & Leisure; Planning & Environment
2.28	Seek partnerships and funding to deliver a program that helps residents access seeds / seedlings of firewise native plants that are suited to residential gardens and provide important resources for native bees.	Medium	Planning & Environment
2.29	Seek partnerships and funding to deliver a conference that brings together bushfire and biodiversity researchers and practitioners to inform future natural area management and bushfire mitigation practices.	Medium	Planning & Environment
2.30	Investigate options to develop or adapt material that supports residents in using principles of traditional burning practices appropriate for our landscape.	Medium	Community Safety

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
2.31	Review the Local Emergency Management Arrangements Recovery sub-plan for environmental bushfire recovery to seek more funding and better support residents dealing with post-bushfire issues including weed growth.	Medium	Planning & Environment; Emergency Management
2.32	Produce watercourse restoration guidelines based on Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy recommendations and link to species available through the Seedlings for Landcare program.	Medium	Parks; Planning & Environment
2.33	Seek partnerships and funding to investigate use of Miyawaki forest patches for carbon sequestration, biodiversity refuges and 'stepping stones' enabling wildlife movement in bushfire prone areas.	Medium	Planning & Environment
2.34	Investigate options for establishing a community based Landcare Centre, modelled on successful organisations such as SERCUL, Landcare SJ, and Chittering Landcare Centre.	Long	Planning & Environment
2.35	Engage with all local schools to canvas use of environmental education support generally and initiate programs or projects to fill identified gaps.	Long	Planning & Environment; Parks



Annual Environmental Art Project encourages primary school children to creatively engage with local and global environmental issues

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Table 3 Actions relating to road reserves

Verges and Roadside Conservation

Objective: Maintain native vegetation within road reserves where safe and practical, to maintain biodiversity conservation values and local landscape character and amenity.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
3.1	Plan and conduct works within road reserves with the aim to minimise impacts on watercourses and native vegetation.	Ongoing	Infrastructure Design
3.2	Prioritise retention of mature trees and native vegetation in new road reserves in accordance with Street Tree Policy provisions for subdivision.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
3.3	Continue to review landowner applications for crossovers and other proposals that include clearing of the verge in accordance with Roadside Conservation Policy.	Ongoing	Infrastructure Design
3.4	Continue to assess proposed works for telecommunications and utilities in accordance with Roadside Conservation Policy and encourage dieback hygiene measures.	Ongoing	Infrastructure Design
3.5	Maintain Roadside Vegetation Management team efforts focussed on priority weed species and recognised Flora Roads (e.g. Bailup Road).	Ongoing	Parks
3.6	Purchase additional Green Spot signs and continue to relocate on an annual basis based on community nominations of fauna movement hotspots.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment; Operations
3.7	Improve understanding of seasonal animal behaviour and investigate options for verge adjustments or temporary signage in locations where there are significant wildlife movements and/or injuries, such as known turtle crossings.	Short	Parks; Operations
3.8	Advocate for review of traffic management requirements for roadside weed control, to enable safe work to address priority weeds on verges without excessive traffic management costs.	Short	Parks; Operations
3.9	Incorporate follow-up weed control, and revegetation where required , into planning and budgets for Shire works on roads and roadside infrastructure.	Short	Operations; Emergency Management
3.10	Improve mapping of priority weed species within road reserves, recording of control efforts and monitoring of results to better plan and refine control measures.	Short	Parks
3.11	Continue to encourage landowners to improve bush verges adjacent to their property by undertaking weed control, which also reduces fuel loads.	Short	Emergency

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
3.12	Preparation and implementation of a Works Environmental Checklist for planning and management of works within bush verges to minimise dieback risk and environmental impacts.	Short	Planning & Environment; Parks; Emergency Management
3.13	Undertake stormwater intervention review and implement recommendations from the adopted Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy relating to drainage and stormwater management within road reserves.	Short	Infrastructure Design; Operations
3.14	Improve protection of native vegetation through reviews of relevant local laws.	Short	Governance
3.15	Develop dieback awareness training and induction material for Shire staff working within road reserves.	Short	Planning & Environment; Operations
3.16	Investigate naming of roads to include local native plants and animals, including traditional Noongar names (following consultation).	Medium	Planning & Environment
3.17	Review Street Trees Policy and Street Tree Guidelines, updating species list to remove trees that will be more susceptible to projected climate by 2050.	Medium	Planning & Environment; Parks
3.18	Review plans for future major road construction and widening and identify potential sites on adjacent properties, to establish compensatory planting prior to clearing within the road reserve.	Medium	Planning & Environment, Infrastructure Design
3.19	Investigate options to map habitat trees located within road reserves and schedule recurring dieback treatment for significant trees at risk from dieback infestations.	Medium	Parks
3.20	Develop seed collection guidelines to harvest seed from native plants required to be cleared for works within road reserves, where feasible.	Medium	Parks
3.21	Develop a Street Tree Masterplan to include a biodiverse selection of resilient, firewise tree species to address urban heat island issues in the foothills and within townsites in the hills.	Medium / Long	Parks

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Table 4 Actions relating to State managed lands

Advocacy for State Managed Lands

Objective: Encourage effective biodiversity conservation initiatives and management of State Government lands and reserves.

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
4.1	Continue to monitor bushfire risk and research findings and advocate for careful implementation of bushfire risk mitigation activities to maintain biodiversity values on State Government managed lands.	Ongoing	Emergency Management
4.2	Continue to lodge objections to mining tenements.	Ongoing	Planning & Environment
4.3	Advocate for Main Roads WA to improve weed control along highways and within regional road reserves.	Ongoing	Infrastructure; Emergency Management
4.4	Share information and encourage public participation in review of the Forest Management Plan for native forests.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.5	Advocate for more active, coordinated and effective control of weeds and feral animals in national parks, regional parks, and Water Corporation managed lands.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.6	Advocate for greater environmental flows into the Helena River from Water Corporation dams.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.7	Advocate for improved collection and sharing of biodiversity information and mapping (across all land tenures) by State Government.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.8	Advocate for greater investment in national parks and regional parks within the Shire to enhance recreational use of trails and enjoyment of natural areas.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.9	To help address illegal firewood collection, advocate for an incentive program to assist residents to replace wood fires with electric heating, which would improve air quality as well as reduce demand for firewood that is driving illegal logging in both state and local government managed reserves.	Short	Planning & Environment
4.10	Advocate for more effective planning and monitoring of firewood and timber harvesting to reduce negative impacts of illegal logging.	Short	Planning & Environment

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

No.	Action	Timeframe	Key Service
4.11	Advocate for investigation of the potential for strategic thinning of regrowth areas in timber reserves to better mimic the structure of old growth forests, in a way that may also address bushfire risk and illegal logging.	Short/ Medium	Planning & Environment; Emergency Management
4.12	Advocate for positive environmental outcomes in relation to the planning of Eastlink.	Medium	Planning & Environment
4.13	Advocate for State agencies to incorporate climate adaptation principles into management of State forest and national parks.	Medium	Planning & Environment
4.14	Encourage sustainable nature based tourism initiatives and attractions within State Government managed lands.	Medium	Planning & Environment
4.15	Encourage public participation in consultation processes for mining proposals and advocate for protection of native forests within the Shire as an important ecological, cultural and recreational asset for the Perth region.	Long	Planning & Environment



Photo: A. Lebel

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Actions Requiring Business Cases

Most actions reflect a recalibration of existing staff and budget allocations. The review has highlighted areas requiring greater intervention and prioritisation that require business cases to be developed for additional funding allocations.

The table below lists specific actions requiring business cases to be developed to request funding allocations. It should be noted that the success of other actions that depend on the provision of staff and resources will be affected by the outcomes of the budget process and decisions on these business cases.

Table 5 Actions requiring new business cases and funding decisions

Action	Estimated Cost	Likely Year
Hold novel events and undertake low risk trial activities to explore new ways to attract environmental volunteers, with outcomes to inform the Shire's environmental volunteer engagement model and an update of the Friends Group Manual.	\$15,000 per annum for two years	2023/2024
Develop a comprehensive Lake Leschenaultia Management Plan to protect and enhance the Lake's environmental values whilst allowing for a range of nature-based recreational activities.	\$60,000	2023/2024 or 2024/2025
Undertake recurring dieback treatment to maintain ecological values in priority reserves.	\$15,000 to \$20,000 per annum	2023/2024
Develop a business case to employ additional staff (which may include a fire ecologist or similar) to map and monitor condition of nature reserves, develop and implement plans for priority reserves, and coordinate weed control efforts and conservation activities with bushfire mitigation actions.	\$90,000 to \$160,000 per annum	2023/2024 or 2024/2025
Review opportunities for regional programs with Perth NRM and other Local Governments, such as Eastern Region Catchment Management Program.	\$20,000 - \$40,000 per annum	2024/2025
Update mapping of environmental features and Local Natural Areas using aerial photography and other remotely collected spatial data.	Assess options and costs in 2025	2026/2027

Actions to Protect our Biodiversity

Reporting and Review

The following indicators have been selected to provide an annual snapshot of progress, to be reported to Council.

- Number of properties supported as part of new Land for Wildlife service
- Number of nature-based talks, videos (views), workshops and events held for residents
- Number of native seedlings distributed to residents, schools and Friends Groups
- Number of Environmental Asset Inspections by Environmental Officers
- Number of feral animals removed from natural areas
- Number of registered Friends Group volunteers
- Number of reserves with Fire and Environmental Work Plans
- Number of reserves with Reserve Management Plans less than ten years old
- Hectares of dieback treatment undertaken
- Changes to mapped extent of native vegetation or Local Natural Area
- Changes to mapped condition of native vegetation (if available).

Updating of mapping for native vegetation extent and Local Natural Areas will likely continue to depend on State Government remote data collection. If the relevant mapping is updated biannually or less often, then the Shire's annual reporting will be based on the most recent available dataset. If the State Government does not continue to collect and provide these datasets then alternative indicators may be required (which may not be as accurate due to the cost of remote data collection and processing).

This Strategy should be subject to a major review in 2030, with a midway update to mapping and review of listed actions planned for 2026/2027.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

The Local Biodiversity Strategy adopted by Council in 2009 had a strong focus on prioritising natural areas at risk and protecting them through the local planning framework. The Strategy was developed using mapping (2008), funding, and methodology provided by the Perth Biodiversity Project, hosted by the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

This model, developed by the Perth Biodiversity Project, used mapped native vegetation complexes to represent ecosystems and a threshold of less than 30% remaining to prioritise certain complexes for protection. This model also recognised the constraints of the planning system and established development rights of private landholders, marking areas already zoned for more intensive development as committed by zoning.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 followed processes and adopted definitions from the 'Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines for the Perth Metropolitan Region'. These Guidelines and the related mapping provided Local Governments with an understanding of the values of biodiversity in the Perth Metropolitan Region, and a methodology for preparing and implementing Local Biodiversity Strategies. The four key features of a Local Biodiversity Strategy prepared following the Guidelines are mechanisms to protect local natural areas, support for private land conservation, bushland sensitive land development, and improving management of nature reserves.

Attention was focussed on the areas where local governments could influence outcomes using a definition (and remnant native vegetation mapping) of 'Local Natural Areas' or LNA, being 'the natural areas that are not currently protected in the public conservation

estate or included within state forests, water catchment areas or Bush Forever sites.'

The difficulty of retaining LNA on land with existing development rights (such as residential or commercial zones) was recognised with a classification of 'Limited Protection/Committed by Zoning', however retention of native vegetation may still be possible at the detailed design stage. Other definitions were introduced to classify LNA for Conservation, Protection or Retention (below) on Shire managed reserves or rural zoned land. These have since been embedded in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

Conservation means vesting of Crown Land for a conservation purpose; inclusion in a proposed Local Reserve for Conservation in Local Planning Scheme No. 4; or inclusion in a Conservation Covenant.

Protection means that the natural area is identified as such in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy, is given additional protection under the Scheme and is a high priority for on-ground management. There is a very strong presumption against clearing natural areas identified as 'Protection', or allowing rezoning which would threaten the ecological value of these natural areas.

Areas identified with a 'Retention' status, whilst usually being of lower conservation priority than the above natural areas, are still proposed to receive additional protection under the Scheme and will need to be retained to maintain the Shire's current levels of biodiversity. There is generally a very strong presumption against allowing the clearing of areas identified as 'retention'. And whilst these areas are a lower priority for active management, landowners should still be encouraged to manage and restore them.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

Local Natural Areas were subsequently identified in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy (2013) and categorised as Conservation (reserved land), Protection, or Retention. The gazettal of Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (LPS4) in 2014 changed the purpose of many local reserves to Conservation, as well as putting in place protections and requirements for planning approval for clearing of Protection or Retention category LNA on private land.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 listed four goals:

1. *To aim to have 1065 hectares of LNA included in the Conservation Category and recognised by the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and LPS4; and to endeavour to increase the amount of LNA in the Conservation Category to up to approximately 1570 ha over time.*
2. *To have 5830 ha of LNA included in the Protection Category and recognised in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and LPS4; and to endeavour to increase the amount of LNA in the Protection Category to up to approximately 5865 ha over time.*
3. *To have 510 ha of LNA included in the Retention Category and recognised in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy and LPS4; and to endeavour to increase the amount of LNA in the Retention Category to up to approximately 1190 ha over time.*
4. *All Council's Local Reserves for Conservation in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 are actively managed for biodiversity conservation and half of all other Conservation Category LNAs and Protection Category (at least an estimated 2925 ha) are actively managed for conservation.*

A review of the Shire's LNA was undertaken by WALGA using their Environmental Planning Tool in 2020, using vegetation complex mapping maintained by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the 'Native Vegetation Extent' dataset produced by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in 2020. The review of LNA mapped and recognised through the Local Planning Strategy and LPS4 found that:

1. 6,240 hectares of LNA was included in the Conservation Category;
2. 5573 hectares of LNA was included in the Protection Category; and
3. 292 hectares of LNA mapped and recognised as Retention Category in LPS4.

The large additional area included in the Conservation Category beyond the original target was partly due to rezoning of an area that was originally included in state managed lands and therefore not classified as LNA in 2009.

The WALGA review found that if the prioritisation process was repeated in 2020, less LNA would meet Priority 1 Conservation criteria compared to 2008 while more LNA would meet Priority 2 criteria.

The primary reason was identified as increased fragmentation of native vegetation in the Shire, resulting in less LNAs mapped as 'habitat' (LNAs larger than 10 ha separated by 8m from another patch of vegetation). This is a potential flaw within the original methodology, whereby the remaining native vegetation could be classified as less critical to protect based on surrounding losses, rather than more.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

After 2020 the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development ceased production of the Native Vegetation Extent dataset, however it is anticipated that another state agency may continue to produce that or a similar dataset in the near future.

The WA Local Government Association has also ceased providing the Environmental Planning Tool and support services.

The summary of extent of vegetation complexes remaining in Appendix 1 is based on the 2020 dataset.

In May 2022 the State Government released the first Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia. The policy includes a commitment for state agencies to identify and progress reforms to:

1. Consider and transparently account for the values of native vegetation in decision making that affects it, based on the best information available at the time.
2. Apply the mitigation hierarchy steps to any planned impacts on native vegetation at both strategic and project scale – avoid, minimise, then rehabilitate – before considering offsets.
3. Improve the spatial capture of their regulatory, land management, land planning and funding decisions that affect native vegetation, applying common data standards to facilitate data sharing.

4. Work together with other agencies and stakeholders to expand and apply the native vegetation knowledge base, improve mapping and monitoring of its status and values, and broaden the availability of spatial data.

A re-assessment of conservation priority should be undertaken in future once appropriate datasets again become available; however, the criteria will also need reconsideration given the very high threshold initially set to classify LNA as ‘habitat’ and the need to take into account local level protection of representative vegetation types.

At present, the conservation priorities identified in the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 and recognised in the Local Planning Strategy remain appropriate for strategic land use planning, and the update that is required is to the extent of LNA (to reflect areas cleared since 2009) as provided for in LPS4.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

Implementation through Local Planning Framework

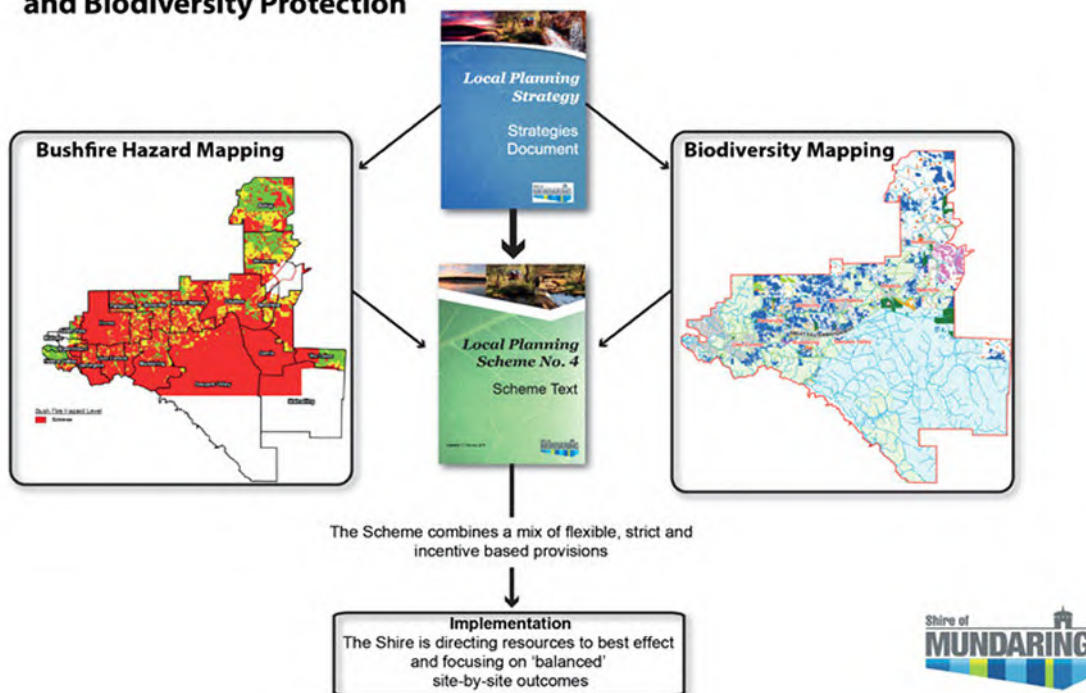
The Shire’s approach to balancing biodiversity protection with bushfire risk mitigation through its Local Planning Scheme has been recognised as best practice. Embedding protections for priority Local Natural Areas within the planning framework has helped to retain bushland and habitat.

As noted in the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009, “Biodiversity strategies are not statutory documents, and need to be incorporated into the Local Planning Strategy and reflected in the Town Planning Scheme to have a bearing on Local and State Government decisions. This is critical as many of the decisions that impact on biodiversity and natural areas are linked to land use planning and development.”

schemes within the State that embeds biodiversity mapping into a statutory layer, referred to as Local Natural Areas (LNA). The LPS4 provisions also afford protection to individual trees and patches of bushland too small to be recognised as LNAs. These trees or small areas of native vegetation are not as high a priority in the protection of biodiversity, but can still retain important habitat features and aesthetic and cultural values.

Apart from limited exceptions, the removal of local native vegetation requires planning approval from the Shire and the LPS4 provisions set out the criteria for assessing any such application. The protection of significant trees in Residential areas is more complicated and is generally more difficult to achieve.

Achieving Bushfire Mitigation and Biodiversity Protection



Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

It should be noted that one of the key exceptions from these controls relates to any vegetation required to be removed in order to comply with bushfire safety requirements under LPS4 and the Guidelines.

The Shire's role in administering planning controls to protect bushland and recognised environmental assets is generally consistent with the wider community's expectations, and generally enjoys a high level of support.

Some residents expect stronger controls preventing any further clearing, however this would frequently contradict bushfire risk requirements and existing development rights. Adding further controls on clearing within bushfire asset protection zone (i.e. a significant tree register), particularly in residential areas could also add a significant administrative burden to the Shire and affected residents for minimal gain, and would likely diminish the respect for current measures that are in place.

The Shire's approach has been recognised by the WAPC as leading the way in the State in relation to protection provisions, because it involved the inclusion of provisions within its local planning scheme, which seeks to balance bushfire safety and biodiversity protection within the local planning framework.

The LPS4 provisions regarding protecting vegetation are also consistent with the intent and direction of the Shire's endorsed Community Strategy Plan and Local Planning Strategy, which support a general presumption against the clearing of native vegetation wherever practicable.

Since the adoption of the Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy in 2009 and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 in 2014, there have been significant reforms to the state planning framework.

These have shifted more decision making for subdivisions and larger scale developments from local to State Government, and elevated bushfire risk as a key planning consideration.

The Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 stated, "for the purposes of this Strategy, it is estimated that existing subdivision potential and development rights could lead to approximately 315 ha of clearing."

A review of the planning applications completed since 2013 that impacted upon mapped LNA (287 applications) found a total of 39.7ha of vegetation has been permitted to be removed or modified as part of the Shire planning approval process. This figure is in addition to the vegetation lost as a result of subdivision and or modification of vegetation on private property.

Options for improving remote mapping including vegetation cover and health are required.

Within the local planning framework there is a strong presumption against clearing LNA, but this does not extend to prohibiting a landowner from constructing a dwelling and other structures where there is no appropriate cleared area on the site.

The mapped LNA essentially serves as a trigger for a planning assessment and for a more detailed environmental inspection. In these instances, the Shire's environmental, planning and fire team have been directly involved in early advice to landowners regarding the siting of dwellings to minimise the extent of clearing and balance bushfire and biodiversity considerations.

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Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

The mapped LNA essentially serves as a trigger for a planning assessment and for a more detailed environmental inspection. In these instances, the Shire’s environmental, planning and fire team have been directly involved in early advice to landowners regarding the siting of dwellings to minimise the extent of clearing and balance bushfire and biodiversity considerations.

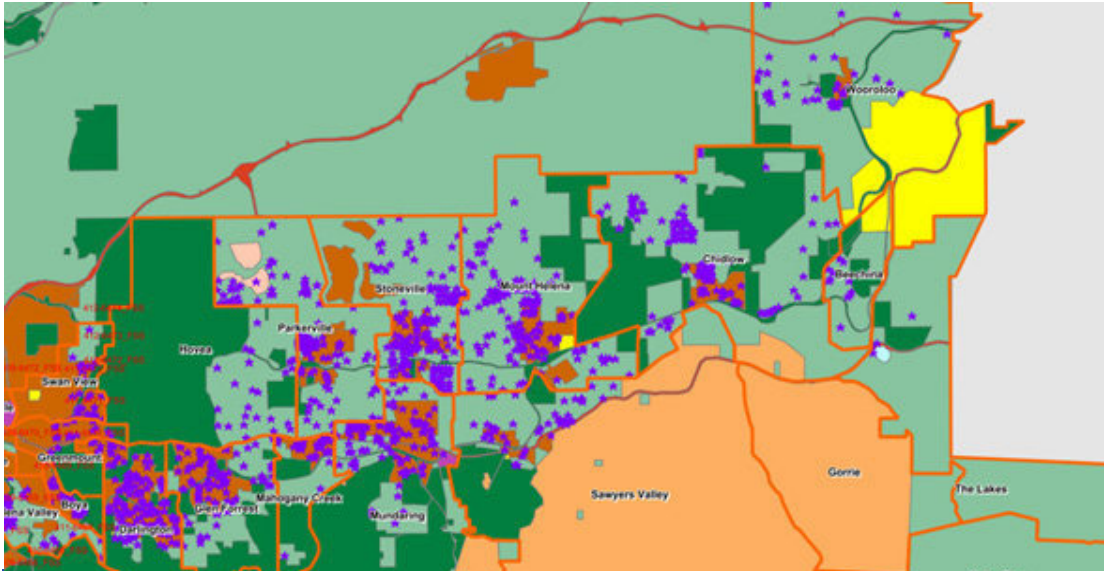
While habitat trees are often mapped on site as part of the planning process it is not comprehensive, and mapping effort is prioritised close to the proposed developed rather than across the whole property. The habitat trees layer that is used to record these on the Shire’s GIS is marked as ‘limited mapping’ and while the number of trees recorded will continue to grow, the data is not an absolute record of all the significant vegetation in the shire.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

The Shire requires Bushfire Management Plans to contain information that ensures key environmental features such as habitat trees are identified and protected.



Fire Management Plans approved since 2013 (purple) also fulfil a role in identifying and protecting significant vegetation on a site specific basis

The Environmental Officers are involved in reviewing Bushfire Management Plans for structure plans and subdivisions, and providing advice to Shire Planning Officers and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). The WAPC is the decision maker for structure plans and subdivisions, and will make decisions after receiving recommendations from a range of other agencies as well as the local government.

For smaller scale developments, the environmental features that were mapped during Environmental Asset Inspections or noted during site visits with bushfire planning consultants are recorded in the Bushfire Management Statement and on site plans.

Environmental protection provisions within the planning system are necessarily a balance between private property development rights and community aspirations. The incorporation of LNA and native vegetation protections within the Local Planning Strategy and LPS4 was the primary aim of the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 and this has been achieved. Consideration of the natural environment has been successfully integrated into local planning practice.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

Local Planning Scheme No. 4 provides for LNA mapping to be updated based on landowner requests, or other investigations or assessments that the Shire conducts. Currently the mechanism, with LNA mapping as a trigger for requiring planning approval and on-site assessment of environmental values, is working effectively.

Operationally, the Shire's environmental advisory service (including the Environmental Asset Inspections service) has been directed towards planning applications to ensure early intervention and to shape development proposals and conditions of approval to minimise environmental impacts. This has left little time for the Shire's Environmental Officers to be proactive and provide environmental advice to other properties, which could make a significant difference to local biodiversity. A slight increase in Environmental Officer capacity to enable better conservation advice and service to more residents has been recommended.

Overall, the current provisions are considered to have operated effectively to protect vegetation and local natural areas through the local planning framework and no amendments to the Local Planning Scheme No. 4 are recommended at this stage. However, continued advocacy is required for State Government planning practices to better balance bushfire safety with environmental protection.

Management of Conservation Reserves

The fourth goal of the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009 was:

4. All Council's Local Reserves for Conservation in Local Planning Scheme No. 4 are actively managed for biodiversity conservation and half of all other Conservation Category LNAs and Protection Category (at least an estimated 2925 ha) are actively managed for conservation.

All Conservation reserves are assessed annually for bushfire hazard and many receive regular weed control treatment, but there is a lack of regular monitoring and mapping of vegetation condition.

The Landcare Team consists of two staff, who are often assisted with weeding, revegetation and other work on reserves by environmental volunteer Friends Groups (who may also belong to broader Catchment Groups crossing local government boundaries). There is support for Friends Groups to prepare grant applications, assisted by the Natural Areas Project Officer (part time).

The Fire Protection Team also consists of two staff, who assess and manage fuel loads across all land that the Shire is responsible for (not just nature reserves). Their primary objective is to reduce fuel loads and improve community safety, but as part of this work they also undertake significant weed control in nature reserves.

Mapping and recording of management issues and interventions, and sharing of information between Shire Services, has been limited by the technology available to staff. The rollout of a more flexible mapping (GIS) system in 2022 should allow for more data collection, sharing and analysis than has been possible in the past.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Achievement of Local Biodiversity Strategy Goals

Most reserves do not have a management plan, and where management plans exist they are generally dated. Dieback mapping and treatment has been undertaken intermittently, often based on external grants. Feral cats in nature reserves may be trapped and removed by the Shire's Community Safety Rangers, but there has been no coordinated program to trap foxes or other feral animals.

While all Conservation reserves are managed, it is difficult to say that they are all actively managed for biodiversity conservation in a way that adequately addresses all threats to their natural values. In addition, the ecological viability of the network of Conservation reserves long term depends on the management of surrounding land and maintenance of wildlife corridors. Support for private land conservation initiatives including wildlife corridors has been limited.

Protection Categories mapping could not be fully replicated due to changes to land use provisions in the Shire's Local Planning Scheme between 2008 and 2020.

Appendices

Appendix 2: Extent of Native Vegetation Complexes Remaining

The following information was produced by the *WA Local Government Association* as part of a review of LNA protection measures in 2020.

Vegetation complexes with less than 10% of pre-European extent retained and protected at bio-region scale (Swan Coastal Plain and Jarrah Forest bioregions) and represented in the Shire include:

- Forrestfield vegetation complex
- Guildford vegetation complex; and
- Swan vegetation complex.

Of these, only Swan vegetation complex has portions protected in the Shire (5% of the pre-European extent in the Shire) (see Table 2 in this appendice).

Of the 18 vegetation complexes represented in the Shire of Mundaring, there are three vegetation complexes which have significant representation in the State's conservation reserves system: Goonaping, Helena 2 and Swamp (all representative of vegetation complexes of the Jarrah Forest bio-region) (Table 1).

Of the vegetation complexes with less than 30% remaining at the bio-region level, the Southern River complex (Swan Coastal Plain IBRA) and Coolakin complex (Northern Jarrah Forest IBRA) are of high priority for conservation as less than 10% being protected in the respective bioregions. Over 60% of the pre-European extent of Coolakin vegetation complex is protected locally and 100% of its mapped extent remains in the Shire (Table 2).

The Southern River vegetation complex, of which 5 hectares remain in the Shire, has no local protection and therefore should be of high priority for future conservation in the Shire. Eight of the vegetation complexes occurring in the Shire are considered not adequately protected at the bioregion scale, with less than 15% of their pre-European extent on lands with formal protection (Table 1).

There are four vegetation complexes with no representation on lands providing formal protection in the Shire of Mundaring, including the already mentioned regionally significant vegetation complexes: Forrestfield, Guildford and Southern River. The fourth vegetation complex with no local protection is Yalanbee 6. While 100% of the pre-European mapping of Yalanbee 6 vegetation complex remains in the Shire, it is retained on privately owned land zoned Rural in the MRS and Public Purposes in LPS4.

¹ Retention and protection level thresholds of 10% and 30% are applied to the actual vegetation extent statistics with a buffer of about 5% to allow for the limitations of the native vegetation mapping dataset. It is considered that the mapping overestimates the actual native vegetation extent status due to limitations of aerial photography interpretations (inability to separate native and exotic vegetation and map vegetation condition).

²In the Perth Metropolitan Region, the minimal thresholds for representation of vegetation within protected lands is 10% of the pre-European extent for vegetation complexes on the Swan Coastal Plain and 15% of the pre-European extent for vegetation complexes in the Jarrah Forest.

Appendices

Appendix 2: Extent of Native Vegetation Complexes Remaining

Table 1

Shire of Mundaring vegetation complexes and their retention and protection status of vegetation complexes at the bioregion scale (Government of Western Australia 2019)
 Orange identifies vegetation complexes protected at less than 10% of their pre-European extent on the Swan Coastal Plain and less than 15% protected in Jarrah Forest bio-region.
 5% buffer is added allow for mapping errors and limitations

Vegetation Complex	Pre-European Extent (ha)	2018 Extent (ha)	% Remaining	Current Extent Protected (IUCN I-IV) for Conservation (ha)	Current percentage remaining within lands Protected (IUCN I-IV) for Conservation (%)	Protected via Shire of Mundaring LPS Conservation reservation-2020 extent (ha)	Current percentage of regional extent protected with contribution via local protection in the Shire of Mundaring
Swan Coastal Plain							
Guildford Complex	90,513.1	4,607.91	5.09	239.45	0.26	0	0.26
Swan Complex	15,194.1	2,062.03	13.57	56.54	0.37	0	0.37
Forrestfield Complex	22,812.9	2,803.36	12.29	313.01	1.37	0	1.37
Southern River Complex	58,781.5	10,832.18	18.43	691.69	1.18	0	1.18
Jarrah Forest							
Cooke, Ce	36,779.3	30,304.20	82.39	6,859.00	18.65	47.71	18.78
Coolakin, Ck	163,991.7	64,204.65	39.15	6,384.23	3.89	196.38	4.01
Darling Scarp, DS1	3,277.96	825.96	25.20	418.03	12.75	0	12.75
Darling Scarp, DS2	32,448.3	13,586.40	41.87	2,489.55	7.67	3.09	7.68
Dwellingup, D2	86,128.3	71,055.96	82.50	16,628.15	19.31	104.11	19.43
Dwellingup, D4	132,415.6	115,661.52	87.35	15,926.50	12.03	2,069.25	13.59
Goonaping, G	27,467.0	21,834.63	79.49	13,905.39	50.63	360.6	51.94
Helena 2, He2	16,339.3	12,984.83	79.47	4,921.85	30.12	0	30.12
Murray 2, My2	59,317.1	40,952.07	69.04	9,426.51	15.89	1,211.43	17.93
Pindalup, Pn	167,151	128,358.24	76.79	23,935.29	14.32	1,115.54	14.99
Swamp, S	53,658.2	40,612.97	75.69	11,687.19	21.78	73.29	21.92
Yalanbee, Y5	126,609.8	83,829.11	66.21	7,694.97	6.08	653.94	6.59
Yalanbee, Y6	197,849	92,080.88	46.54	22,731.08	11.49	0	11.49
Yarraquil 1, Yg1	80,202.95	64,927.06	80.95	7,912.21	9.87	74	9.96

* Excludes Crown Freehold Department Managed Lands that are managed under Section 8A of the CALM Act.

Appendices

Appendix 2: Extent of Native Vegetation Complexes Remaining

Table 2: 2018 vegetation extent by vegetation complexes in the Shire of Mundaring (Government of Western Australia 2019 (columns with grey heading) and WALGA analysis)

Vegetation Complex	Pre-European Extent (ha)*	2018 Extent (ha)	% Remaining in the Shire	Proportion of the Vegetation Complex Mapping extent within each LGA (%)	2005 Extent (ha)	2005-2018 vegetation extent comparison (ha)	Protected on DBCA managed lands (ha) (2020 extent)	Protected via LPS Conservation-reservation-2020 extent (ha)	% or pre-European extent protected in the Shire (2008 status in %)
Swan Coastal Plain									
Southern River	31.7	5.3	16.72	0.05	1.86	3.44	0	0	0%
Guildford Complex	127.8	0.9	0.73	0.14	7.06	-6.13	0	0	0%
Swan Complex	252.2	39.2	15.56	1.66	57.7	-18.47	8.52	0.26	4%
Forrestfield Complex	987.4	66.7	6.76	4.33	50.55	16.15	1.28	0	0%
Jarraah Forest									
Cooke, Ce	222.9	168.1	75.40	0.61	174.32	-6.27	78.73	47.71	57%
Coolakin, Ck	321.7	321.7	100.00	0.20	285.84	35.85	0	196.38	61%
Darling Scarp, DS2	1,249.8	779.6	62.38	3.85	699.52	80.07	360.07	3.09	29%
Dwellingup, D2	10,431.7	6,749.0	64.70	12.11	7,497.2	-748.16	2,085.75	104.11	21%
Dwellingup, D4	12,081.6	9,437.1	78.11	9.12	9,596.8	-159.66	819.62	2,069.25	24%
Goonaping, G	460.3	412.2	89.54	1.68	420.04	-7.86	0	360.6	78%
Helena 2, He2	974.5	862.2	88.47	5.96	903.01	-40.82	328.04	0	34%
Murray 2, My2	19,064.3	14,181.6	74.39	32.14	14,739.4	-557.79	3,456.34	1,211.43	24%
Pindalup, Pn	8,676.1	5,311.9	61.22	5.19	5,303.26	8.67	272.41	1,115.54	16%
Swamp, S	193.2	90.7	46.96	0.36	86.85	3.76	0	73.29	38%
Yalanbee, Y5	4,793.8	2,422.8	50.54	3.79	2,372.08	50.67	34.73	653.94	14%
Yalanbee, Y6	118.2	118.2	100.00	0.06	110.1	8.12	0	0	0
Yarragil, 1, Yg1	4,329.7	2,088.3	48.23	5.40	2,323.90	-234.96	475.31	74	13%
Total	64,316.7	43,055.6	67%		44,629.5	-1,549.9	7,920.8	5,909.6	22%

Appendices

Appendix 2: Extent of Native Vegetation Complexes Remaining

Summary of findings

Highest priority vegetation complexes for formal protection in the Shire of Mundaring are:

- Forrestfield
- Guildford
- Southern River
- Swan
- Yalanbee 6.

To date, implementation of the Shire's 2009 Local Biodiversity Strategy contributed to the improved conservation status of the following vegetation complexes:

- Cooke
- Coolakin
- Dwellingup 2 & 4
- Goonaping
- Murray 2
- Pindalup
- Swamp
- Yalanbee 5
- Yarragil 1.

The greatest contribution to the regional protection status via protection of vegetation complexes by the Shire were achieved for Dwellingup 4 and Murray 2 vegetation complexes, increasing the regional protection level by more than 1% of the pre-European extent of these vegetation complexes (Table 1).

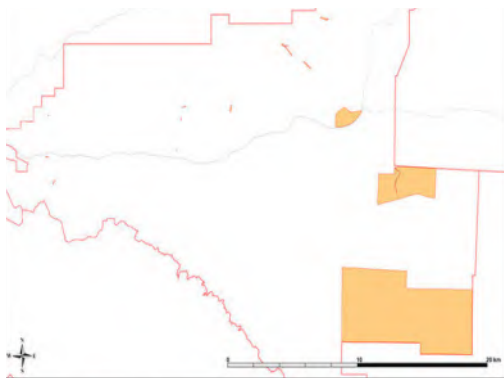


Figure 1: Additional LNA (Conservation in 2020 not mapped as LNA in 2009 Local biodiversity Strategy

However, of the 18 vegetation complexes mapped in the Shire of Mundaring, only three are adequately represented on lands providing long-term protection (Goonaping, Helena 2 and Swamp).

These findings point to gaps in how the Local Biodiversity Strategy Conservation Priorities criteria consider vegetation complexes. The criteria does not consider local level of protection of representative vegetation types in the Shire and thus conservation priority of Yalanbee 6 vegetation complex with no formal protection in the Shire is dependent on the presence of other criteria such as threatened species. Yalanbee 6 is also not adequately protected at the regional level and in 2008 was not mapped as an LNA in the Local Biodiversity Strategy.

The significant increase in the overall area classified as LNA in 2020 is due to changes in land use classification in the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) since 2008, and inclusion of lands reserved Parks and Recreation in the MRS but not managed by DBCA. One of the largest additions is over 9,000 hectares currently zoned Rural in the MRS that were in 2008 mapped as State Forest, Other DBCA managed lands and Water Lands (Figure 1).

When compared with the 2020 WALGA LNA, the proportion of LNAs meeting Priority 1 criteria decreased since 2008 and the area of LNAs meeting Conservation Priority 2 criteria increased.

The main contributing factor to this is the increased fragmentation of native vegetation in the Shire, resulting in less LNAs mapped as habitat (LNAs larger than 10 ha separated by 8m from another patch of vegetation).

Appendices

Appendix 3: Wildlife Corridor Network Maps

Regional Ecological Linkages were previously identified by the Perth Biodiversity Project, to connect regionally significant natural areas across the Perth Metropolitan Region.

Local wildlife corridors have been mapped to complement the Regional Ecological Linkages and together these will collectively be considered as the 'wildlife corridor network'. The local wildlife corridors are a composite of major watercourses (better vegetated higher order watercourses, mapped as part of the concurrently developed Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy) and other links between locally significant natural areas.

The major watercourses connect to many dams and water bodies, which are known to be important biodiversity refuges. Dams, other water bodies and major watercourses will also be significant refuges during future drought and heatwaves.

The additional corridors were identified using a least-cost path method identified by consultants, using origins and destinations based on Shire managed conservation reserves with at least 10ha of native vegetation and logical connections to national parks and other state lands. Access to a native vegetation dataset called 'Urban Monitor' was provided via a research collaboration agreement with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). DBCA staff also participated in reviews of draft mapping and suggestions for improvement.

The scoring for the least-cost path method was revised after a round of draft corridors were reviewed by members of the Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee.

A high score was added to buildings (using a 20m buffer) to reflect the impact of people, pets, vehicles and fences associated with building density. The revised scoring (see Table 1 on following page) was used to identify terrestrial corridors in addition to the major watercourses.

A width of 40m was used for local wildlife corridors as in many cases this is the maximum width of the riparian vegetation, multi use reserve, or distance between buildings.

The functional width of local wildlife corridors will obviously be wider where there is more remnant vegetation, and particularly where the corridor is shown passing through a local reserve it is the whole of the reserve which should be considered as effectively part of the wildlife corridor network.

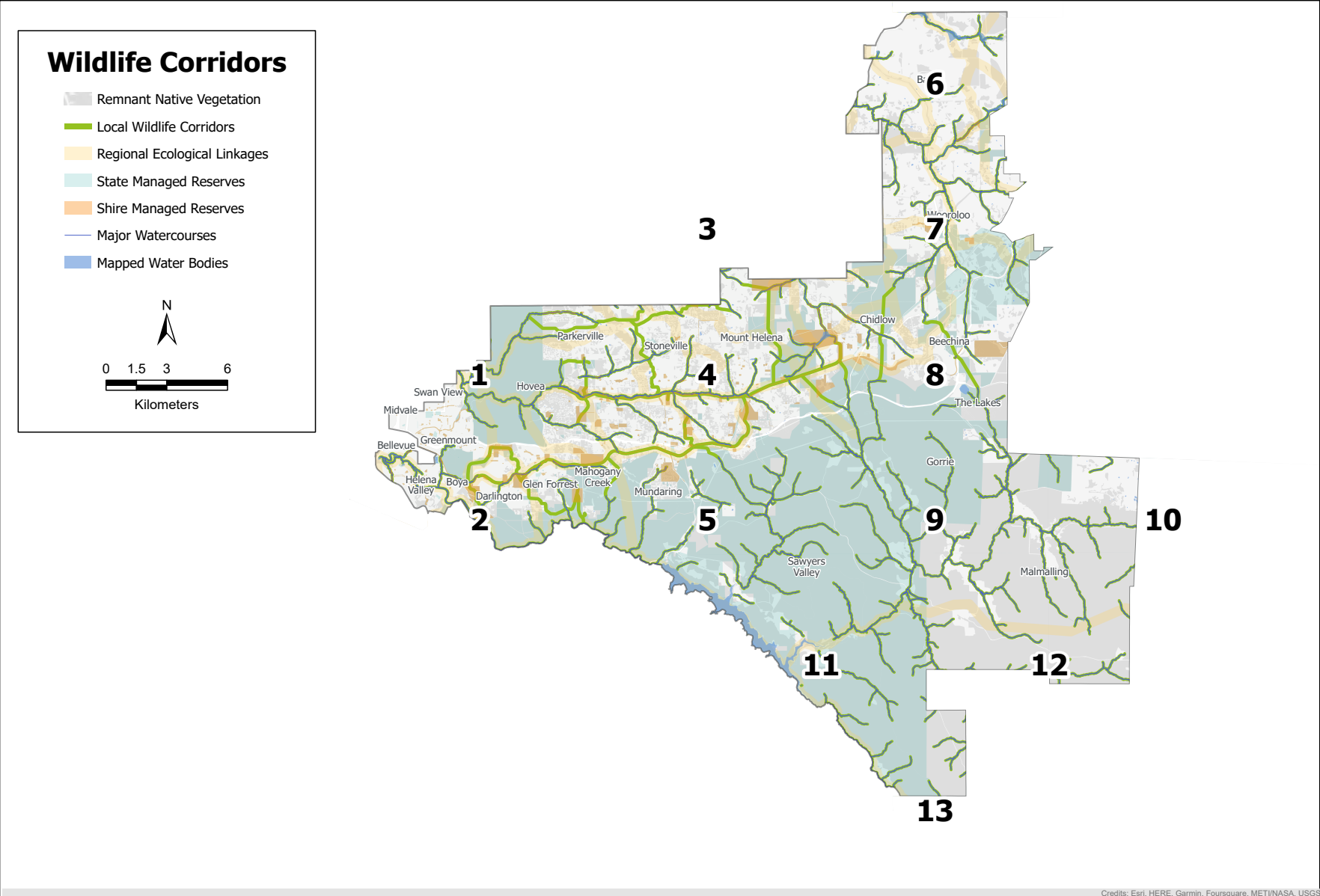
Future revisions of the wildlife corridor mapping may use different source datasets for native vegetation and natural areas, particularly if State Government agencies improve the collection and sharing of remote data for this region.

It must be emphasised that the wildlife corridor mapping provides a mechanism for focussing attention and effort on areas that provide critical support for biodiversity, but cannot and do not include all wildlife movement pathways or important areas of habitat.

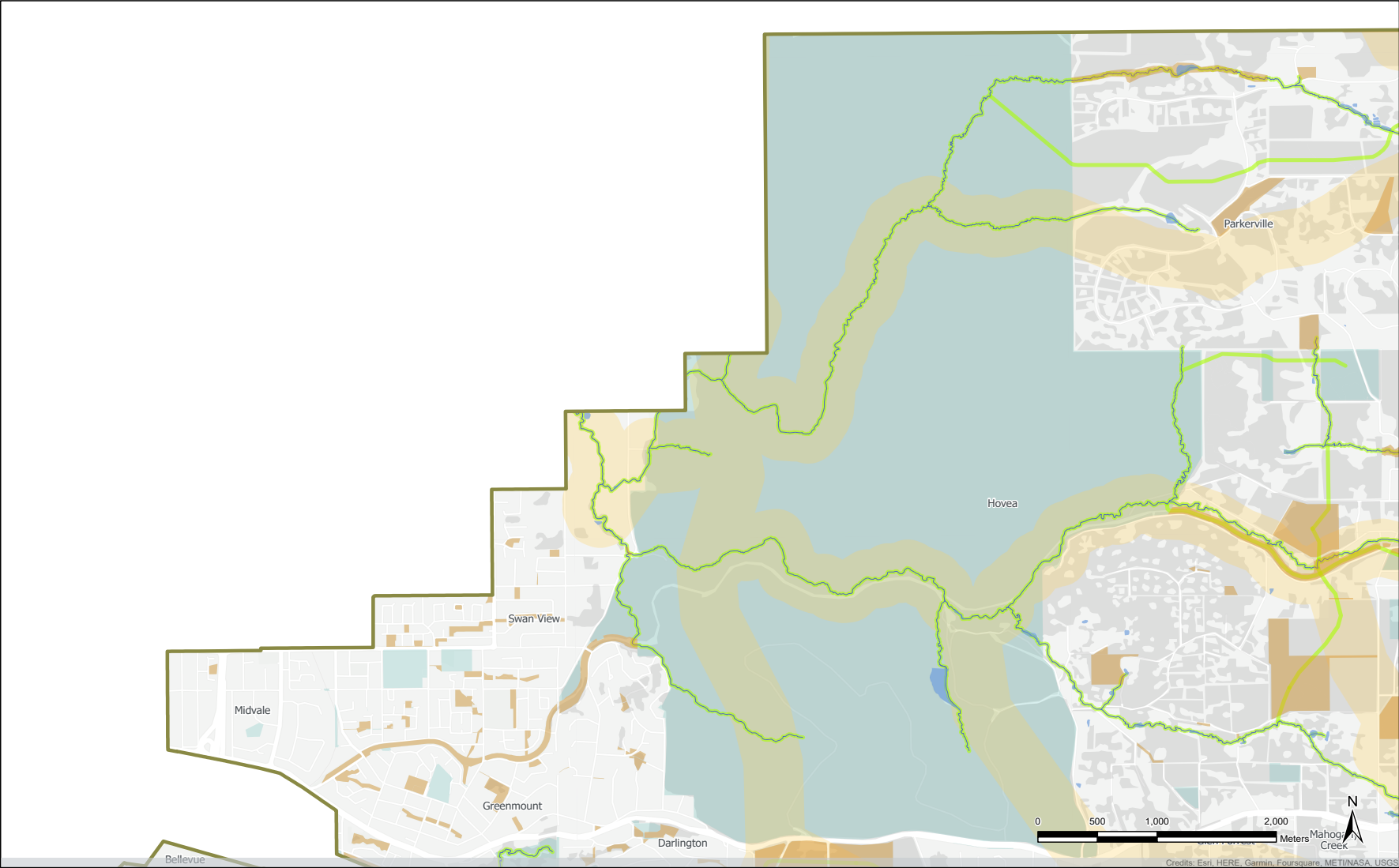
Appendices

Appendix 3: Wildlife Corridor Network Maps

Layer/Features	Cost
Roads	
Minor, Track	70
Freeway, State Highway, Main, Laneway, National Highway	100
Streams	
LiDAR derived streams. Order 1 and 2 removed, 3 to 9 included.	2
Metropolitan Region Scheme	
Parks and recreation	5
Parks and recreation - restricted public areas	5
State Forests	5
Waterways	5
Primary regional roads	100
Public purposes - prison	100
Railways	100
Local Planning Scheme	
Conservation	5
Recreation	20
Residential	75
Rural residential	20
Rural small holdings	20
Development	50
Public Purposes	60
General Agriculture	30
Local Centre	100
Special Use	30
Town Centre	100
Service commercial	100
Light Industry	100
No zone	95
Important Local Roads	85
Other local roads	75
Urban Monitor	
Native vegetation	0.5
Building Footprints	
Buffered to 20m	100



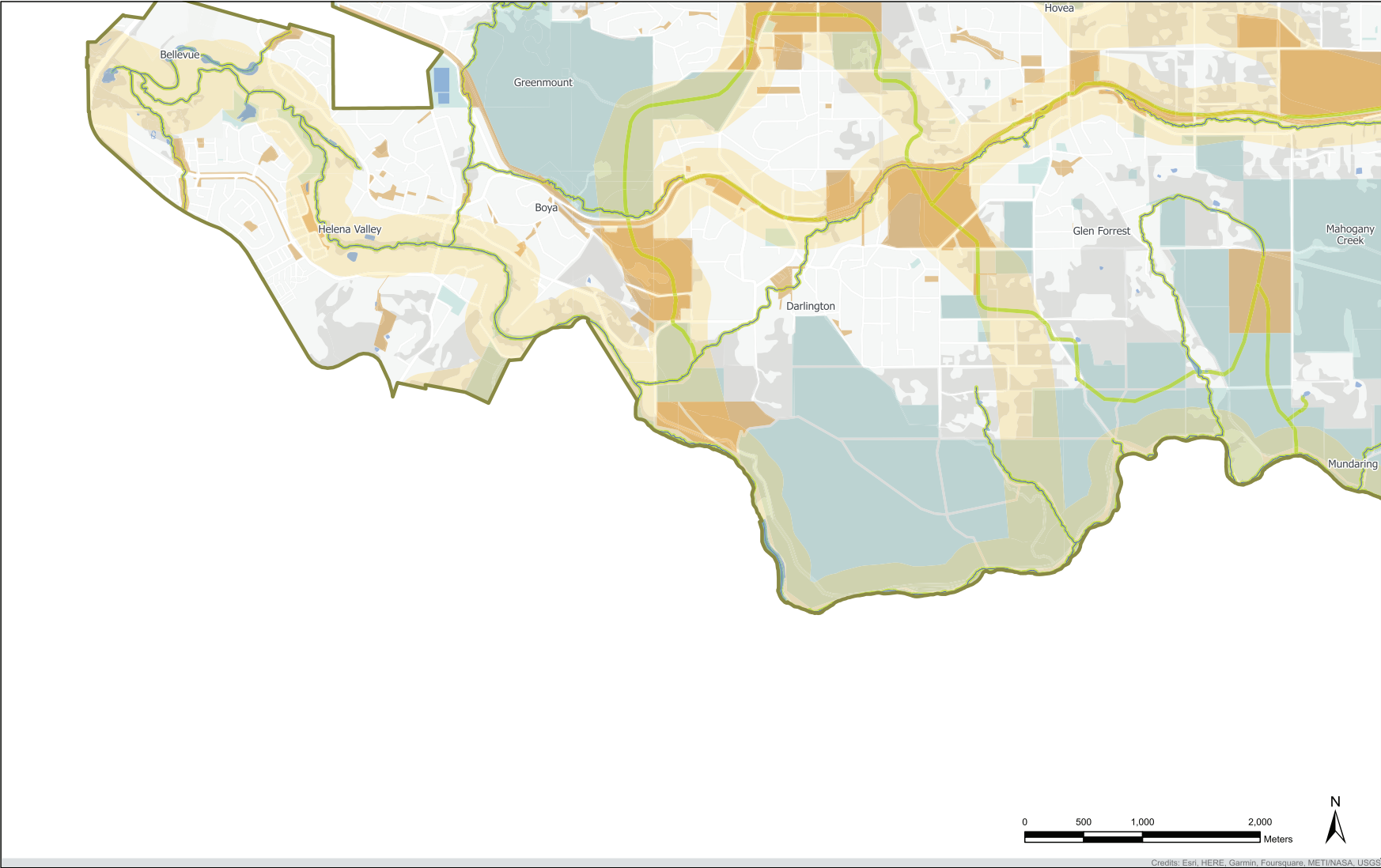
DISCLAIMER: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of map, no liability can be assumed for any errors in the information. It would be appreciated if any errors could be reported to the GIS Section, IT Services, Shire of Mundaring, 7000 Great Eastern Highway Mundaring WA 6073 or e-mail shire@mundaring.wa.gov.au.



Wildlife Corridors Map 1

3/10/2022

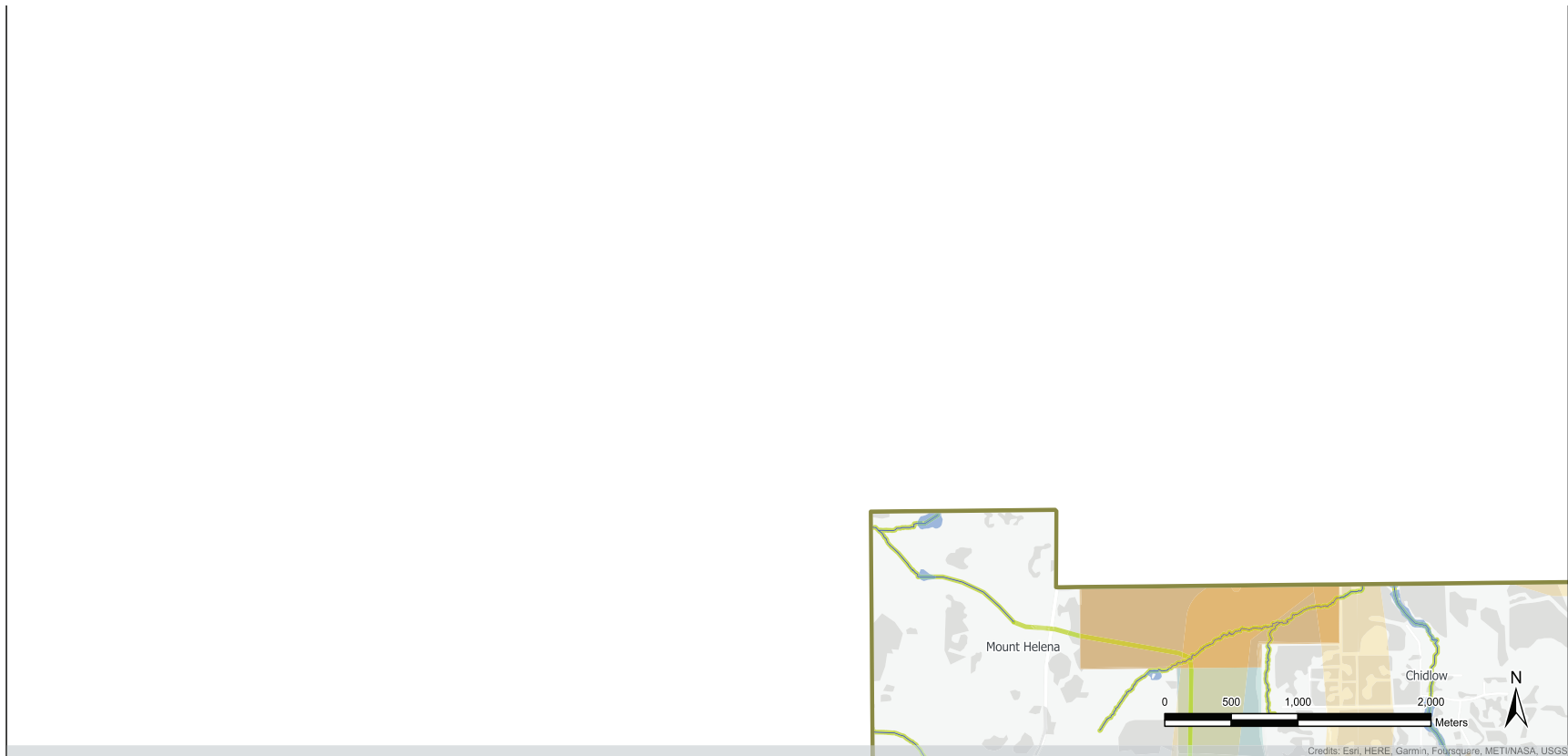
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 2

3/10/2022

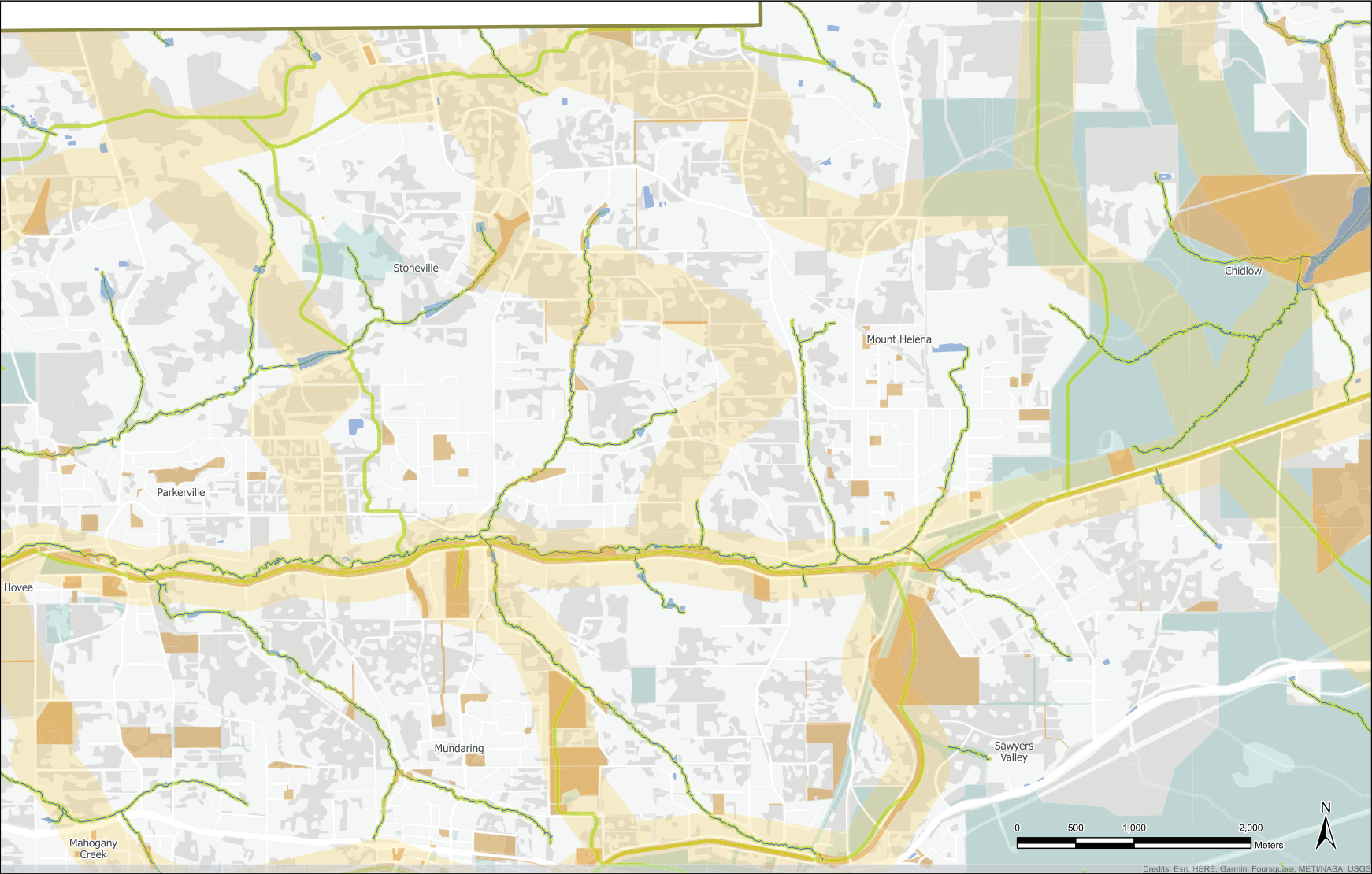
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Wildlife Corridors Map 3

3/10/2022

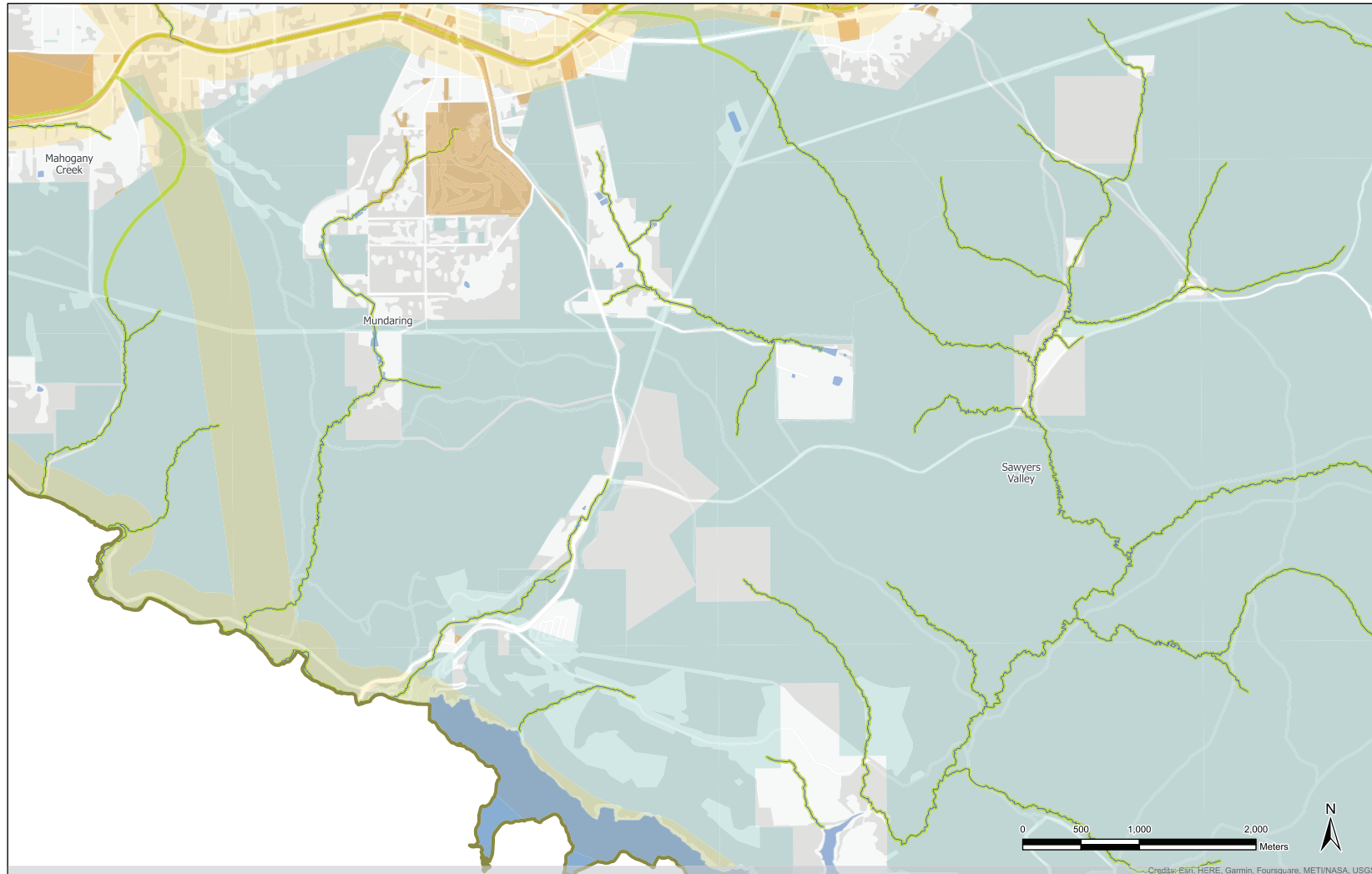
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 4

3/10/2022

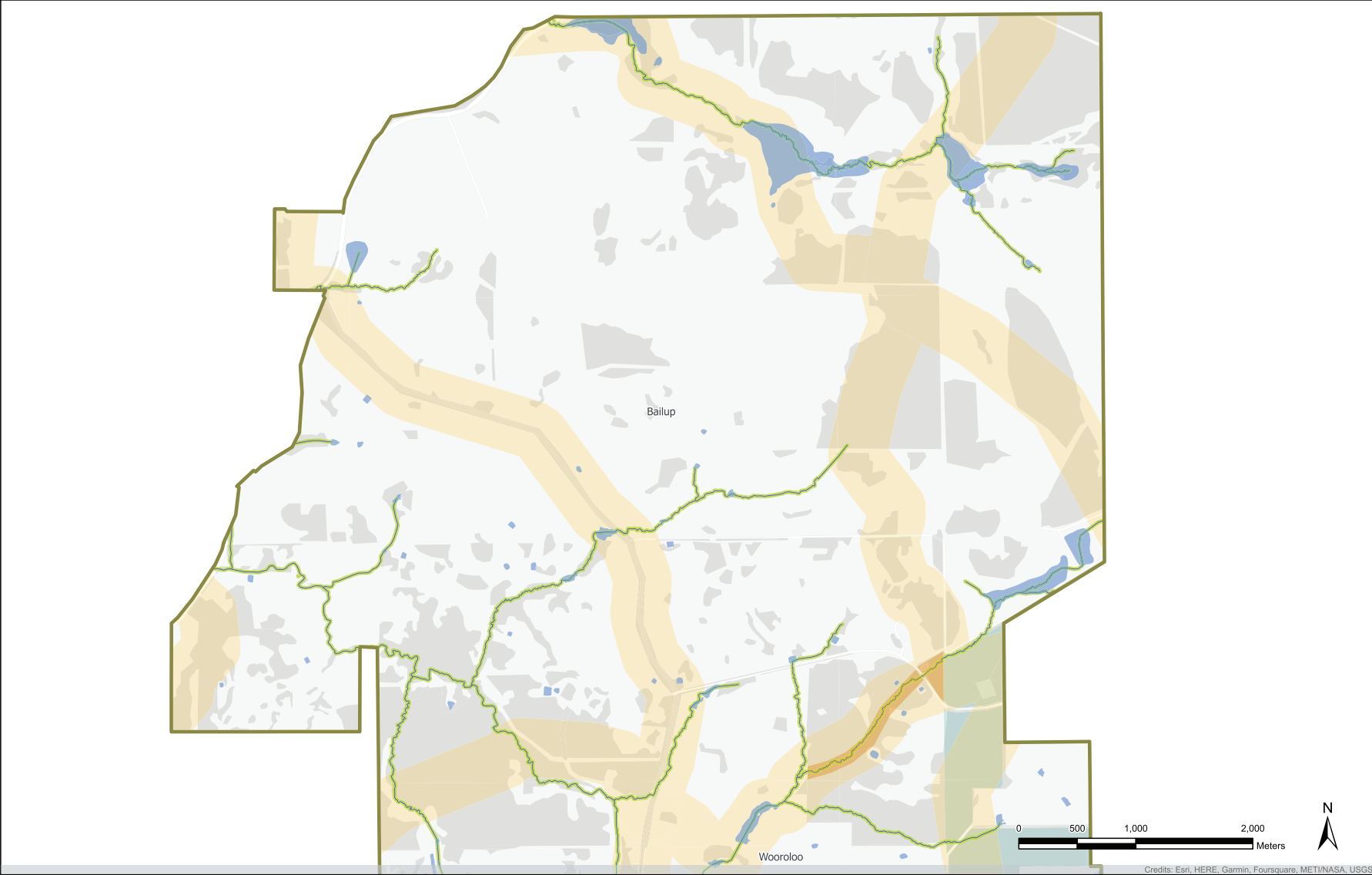
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Wildlife Corridors Map 5

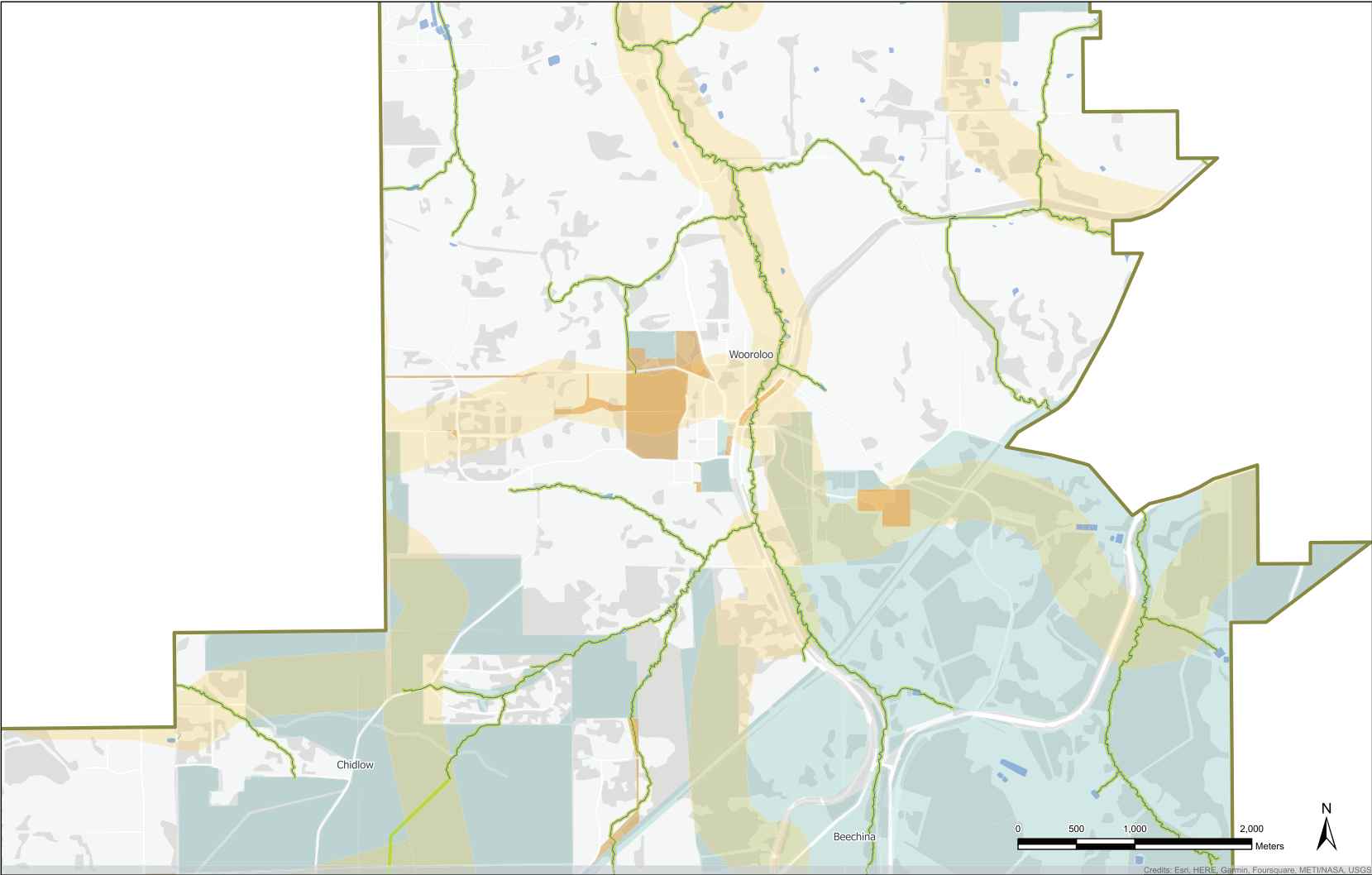
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 6

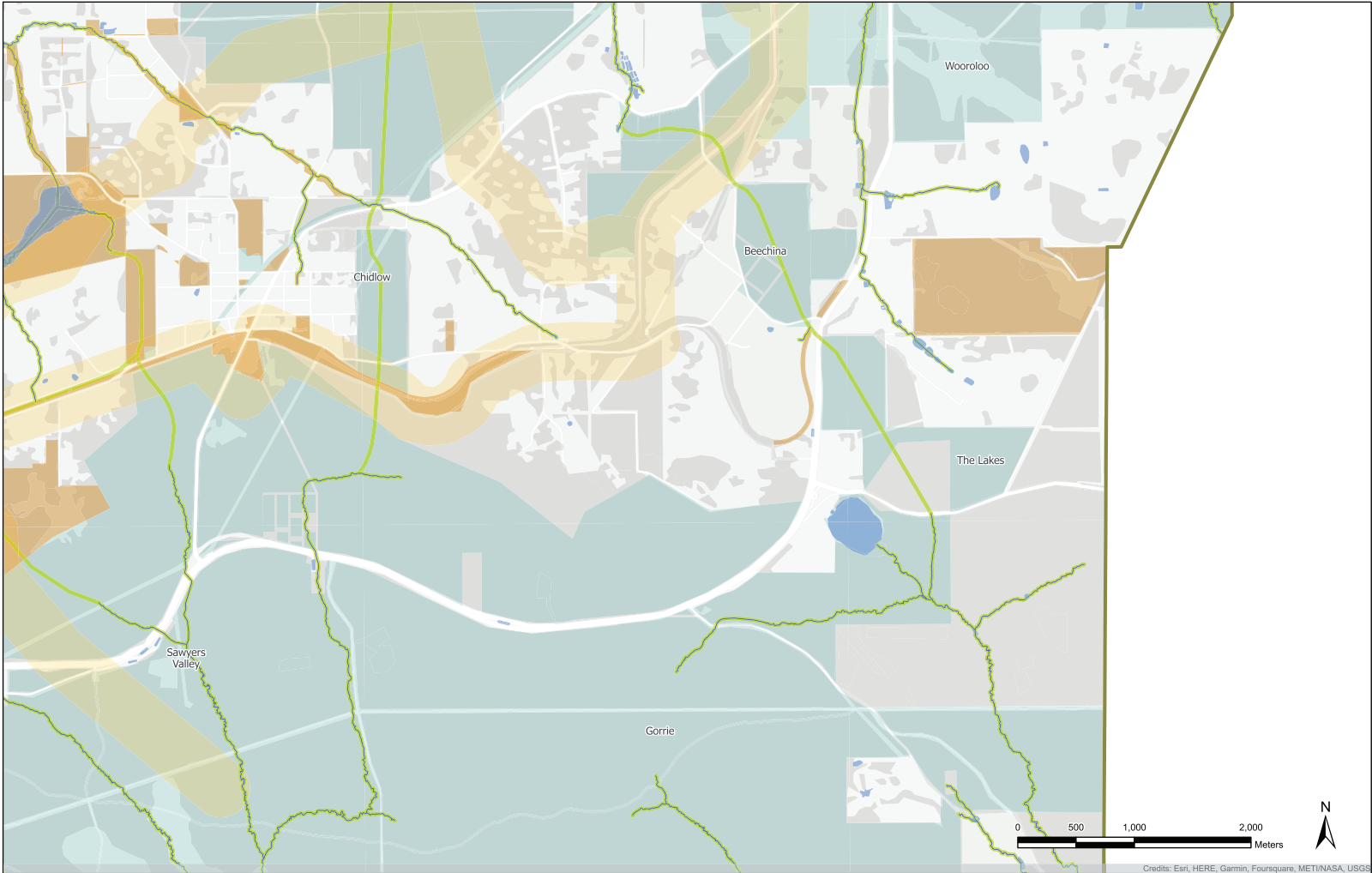
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 7

3/10/2022

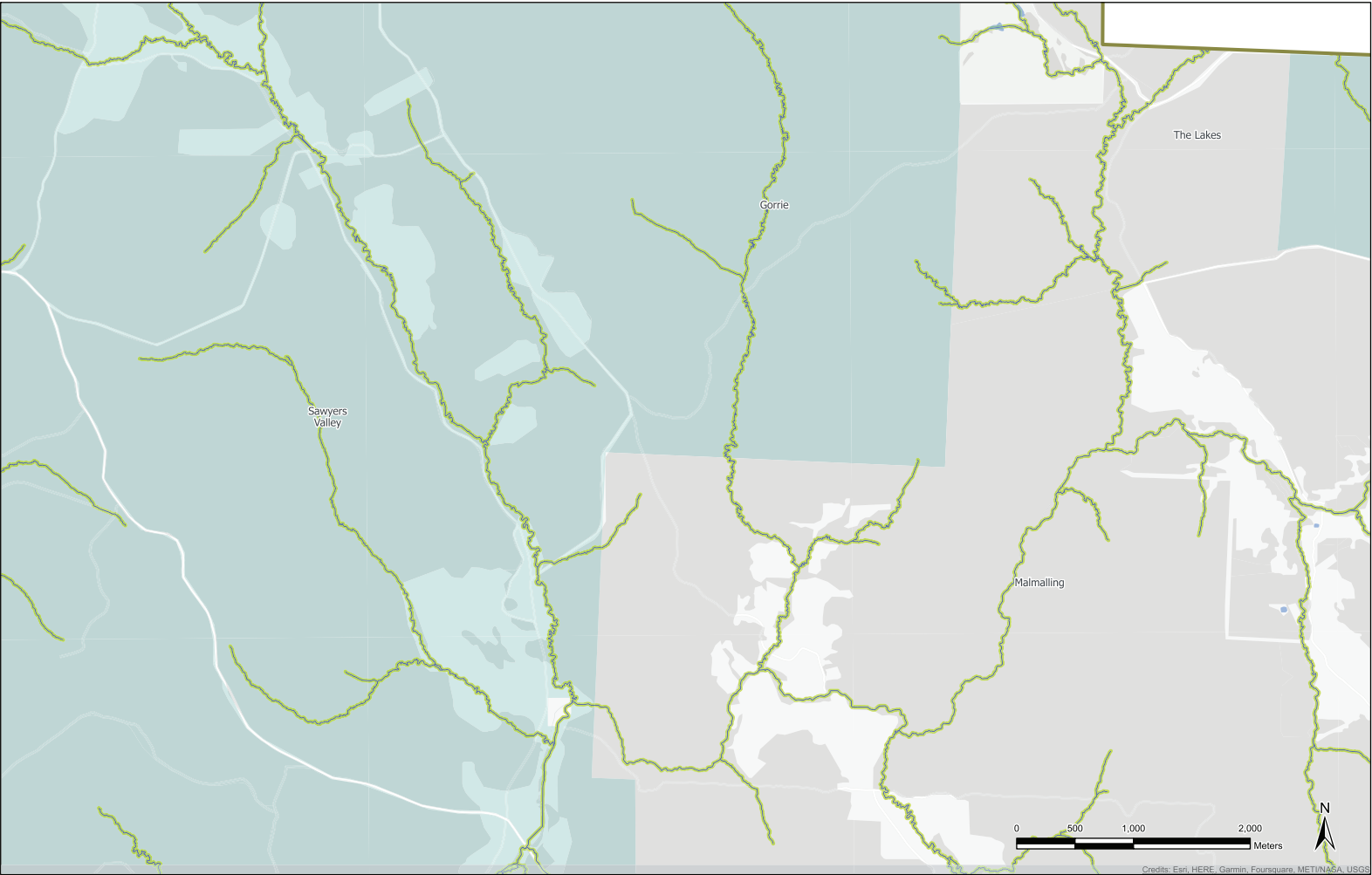
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Wildlife Corridors Map 8

3/10/2022

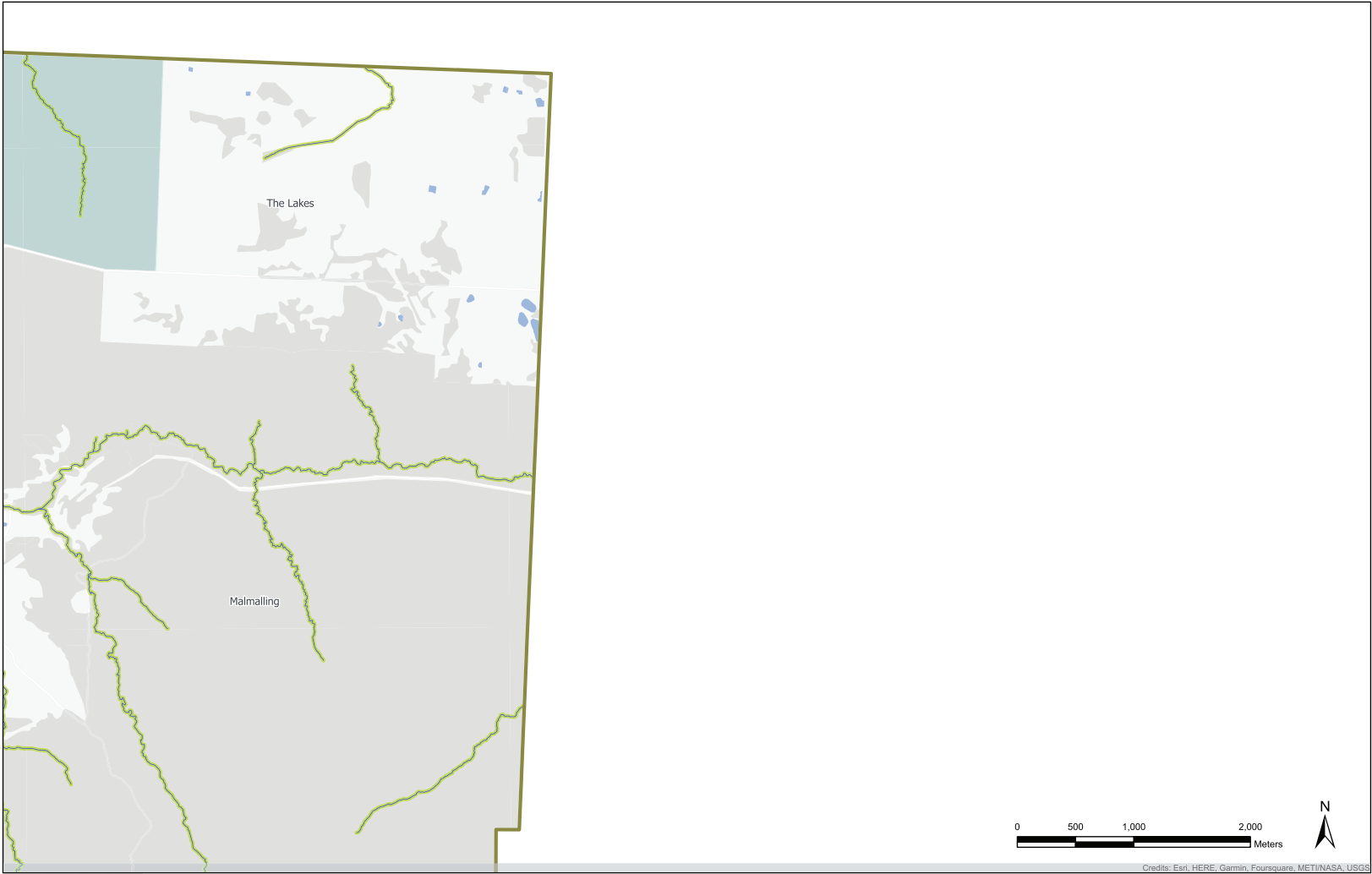
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 9

3/10/2022

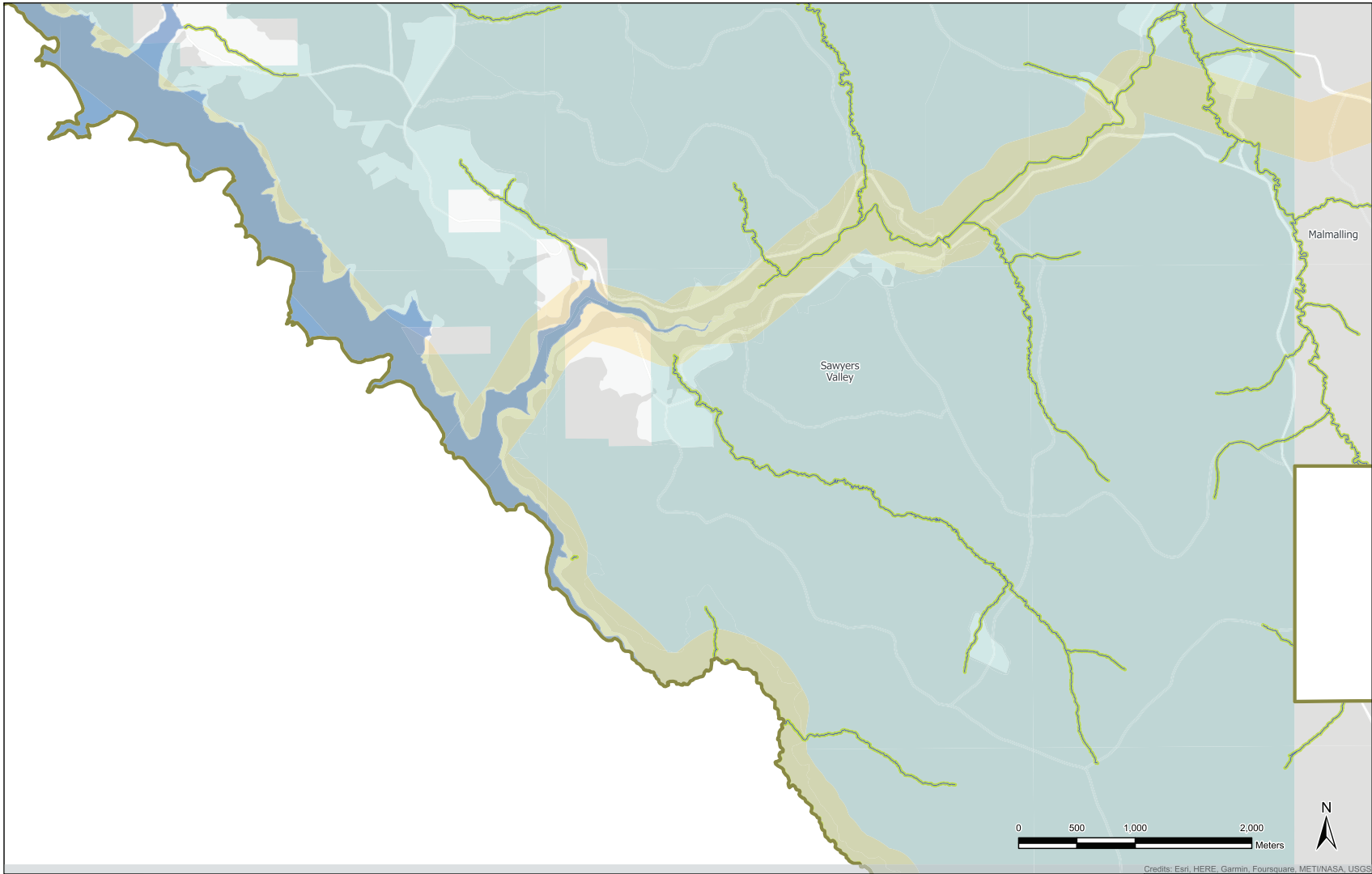
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 10

3/10/2022

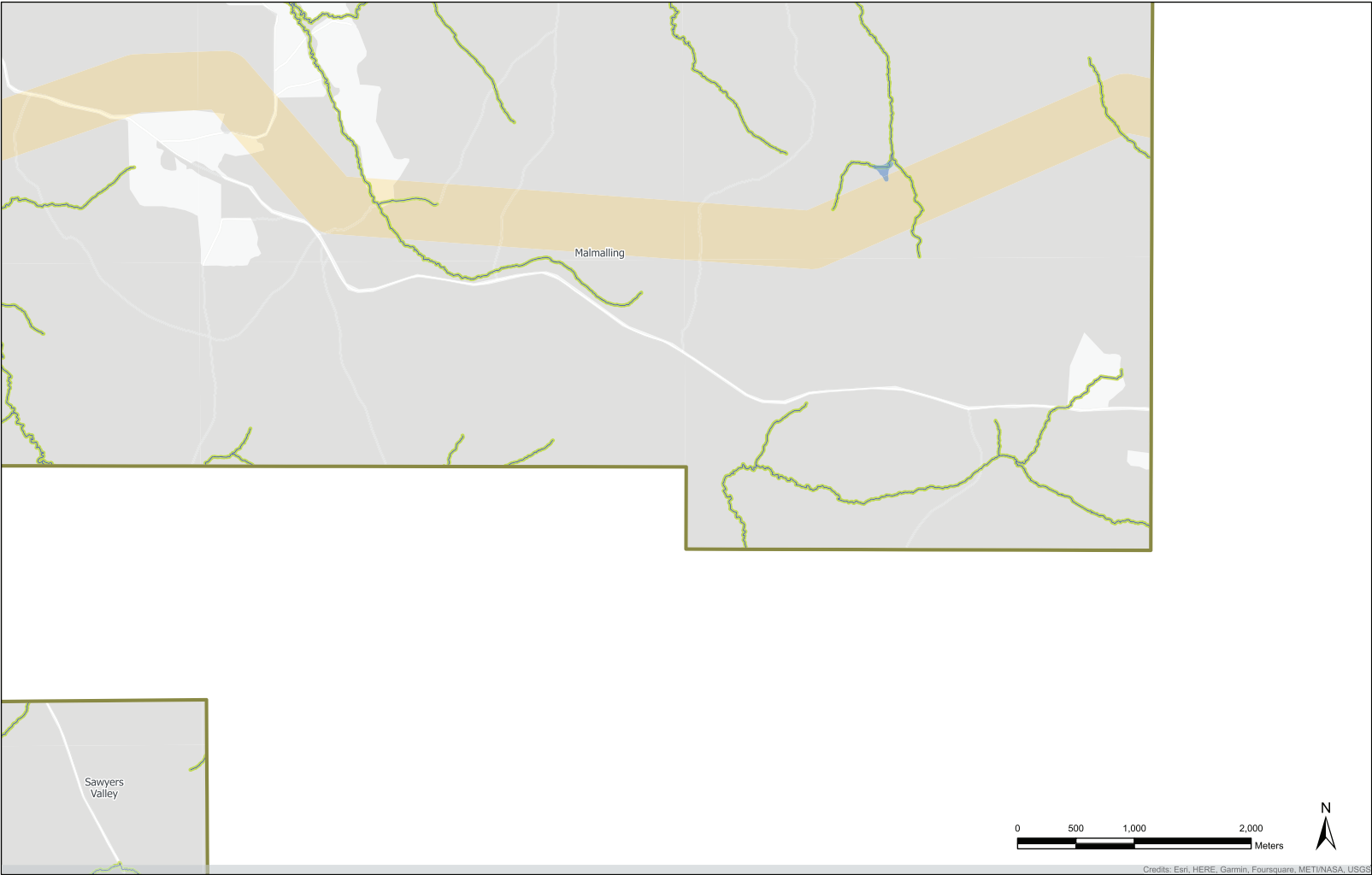
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 11

3/10/2022

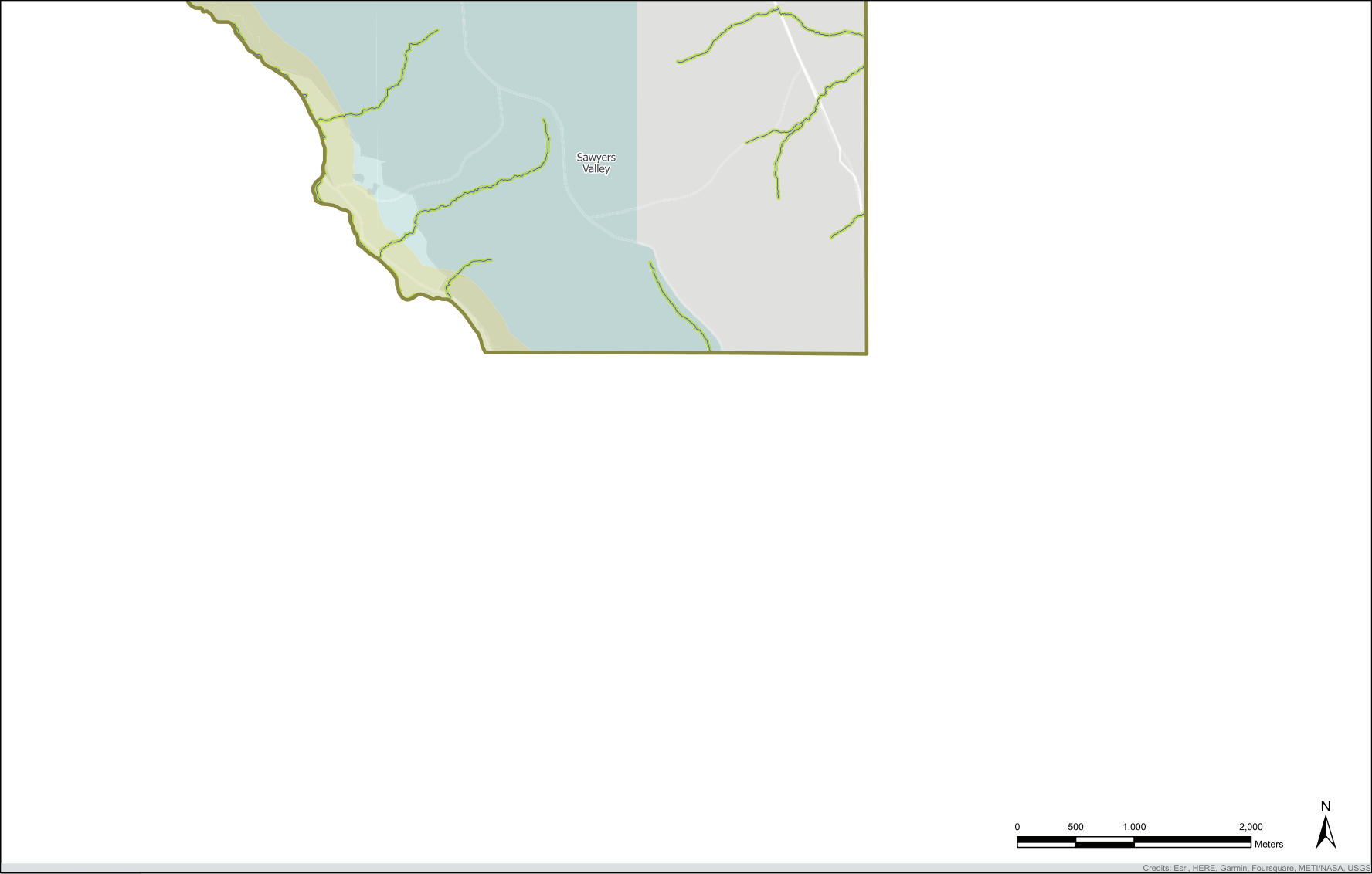
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Wildlife Corridors
Map 12

3/10/2022

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Wildlife Corridors
Map 13

3/10/2022

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Appendices

Appendix 4: Threatened Fauna List

Below is a list of specially protected fauna that may be found within the Shire of Mundaring. This species list was compiled using species listed under the WA *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act) and the national *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), as obtained in 2023 for the Shire of Mundaring region.

Please note: It is very likely there are more species that would meet the criteria for protection under State or Commonwealth environmental legislation, but have not yet been identified or adequately studied. As the protected species listed under these Acts are reviewed their status may change. For the current species status and most recent lists, please refer to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) website for the EPBC Act List of Threatened Fauna and WA Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction (DBCA) website for the Biodiversity Conservation Act Threatened and Priority Fauna List.

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act Status (WA)	EPBC Act Status
Mammals			
<i>Bettongia penicillata ogilbyi</i>	Woylie, Brush-tailed bettong	Critically endangered	Endangered
<i>Petrogale lateralis lateralis</i>	Black-flanked rock-wallaby, Black-footed rock-wallaby, Moororong	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Dasyurus geoffroii</i>	Chuditch, Western quoll	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Pseudocheirus occidentalis</i>	Western Ringtail possum, Ngwayir, Womp, Woder	-	Critically Endangered
<i>Phascogale calura</i>	Red-tailed phascogale, Kenngoor	Conservation Dependent	Vulnerable
<i>Isoodon fusciventer</i>	Quenda, Southwestern brown bandicoot	Priority 4	-
<i>Falsistrellus mackenziei</i>	Western false pipistrelle, Western falsistrelle	Priority 5	-
<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>	Water-rat, Rakali, Moyitj	Priority 6	-
<i>Notamacropus eugenii derbianus</i>	Tammar wallaby	Priority 7	-
<i>Notamacropus irma</i>	Western brush wallaby	Priority 8	-
<i>Phascogale tapoatafa wambenger</i>	South-western brush-tailed phascogale, Wambenger	Conservation Dependent	-

Appendices

Appendix 4: Threatened Fauna List

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act Status (WA)	EPBC Act Status
Reptiles			
<i>Acanthophis antarcticus</i>	Southern death adder	Priority 3	-
<i>Ctenotus delli</i>	Dell's skink, Darling Range southwest ctenotus	Priority 4	-
Invertebrates			
<i>Westralunio carteri</i>	Carter's freshwater mussel	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
Birds			
<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>	Australasian bittern	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Curlew sandpiper	-	Critically Endangered
<i>Calyptorhynchus banksii naso</i>	Forest red-tailed black cockatoo	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Leipoa ocellata</i>	Malleefowl	Vulnerable	Vulnerable
<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Eastern curlew, Far eastern curlew	-	Critically Endangered
<i>Rostratula australis</i>	Australian painted snipe	-	Endangered
<i>Calyptorhynchus baudinii</i>	Baudin's cockatoo	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Calyptorhynchus latirostris</i>	Carnaby's cockatoo	Endangered	Endangered
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine falcon	Specially Protected - OS	-
<i>Oxyura australis</i>	Blue-billed duck	Priority 4	-
<i>Apus pacificus</i>	*Fork-tailed swift	Specially Protected - IA	Threatened

Appendices

Appendix 4: Threatened Fauna List

Scientific Name	Common Name	BC Act Status (WA)	EPBC Act Status
Birds			
<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	*Ruddy turnstone	Specially Protected - IA	-
<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	*Glossy ibis	Specially Protected - IA	-
<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	*Crested tern	Specially Protected - IA	-
<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	*Grey wagtail	-	Threatened
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	*Common sandpiper	-	Threatened
<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	*Sharp-tailed sandpiper	-	Threatened
<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	*Pectoral sandpiper	-	Threatened
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	*Osprey	-	Threatened
<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	*Common greenshank	Specially Protected - IA	Threatened

* Migratory bird species



Appendices

Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

This summary of fire risk and fire ecology was prepared for the Shire of Mundaring by Bushfire Safety Consulting (2022).

Fire is a key threatening process that can affect the Shire's reserves and other natural areas. The Shire of Mundaring is responsible for a large number of reserves relative to its population, and management decisions around fire mitigation is primarily guided by the staff and resources available to undertake the work.

When planning for bushfire risk mitigation, it is also important to consider conservation priorities, especially at a time when the community is increasingly focused on the risks posed by fire in a drying climate. Although naturally occurring fires and prescribed burning can be important and essential drivers of ecosystem structure and function, they can also can threaten biodiversity in some circumstances.

As no single fire regime is optimal for all organisms at any scale, a sustainable fire management approach should ideally focus on ecological and protection goals in order to optimise outcomes.

Increasingly, land managers across Australia are adopting a more nuanced approach to bushfire mitigation through seeking a greater understanding of the impacts of fire on biodiversity. Ecological bushfire management is an approach that identifies fire regimes appropriate for the maintenance of broad biodiversity values and protection of life and property.

Ecological bushfire management practices incorporate an evidence-based, adaptive management approach that is guided by prevailing resources, climate, biodiversity requirements and community expectations.

Ecological bushfire management has the dual purpose of reducing bushfire risk to life and surrounding assets, while maintaining or improving the ecological values of natural areas. It can provide best practice strategies and techniques related to bushfire risk and environmental management based on current knowledge and scientific research. This approach also considers long term responses of local native flora and fauna to fire, which is used to inform ongoing management decisions.

Ecological bushfire management principles can be applied in areas where biodiversity issues are considered a high priority within fire risk planning.

Further, they can also be applied in a manner consistent with the aims and objectives of local, State and National bushfire legislation, policy documents and guidelines.

Fire and native plants

Fire can benefit plants adapted to fire in many ways, including by allowing a greater amount of light to reach leaves, reducing competition for water, and by creating relatively nutrient rich ash beds for seed germination. Some species can benefit more than others in this process.

However, fire can also cause deleterious effects to fire adapted species if time between fires is too short to allow for adequate recovery since last fire.

For example, species that regenerate from soil or cone stored seed need to mature and set seed before the subsequent fire or else there is a risk they will become locally extinct from the area (Burrows 2008).

Appendices

Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

Canopy species present at the site, Marri and Jarrah, can take up to 4 years to flower post fire due to the energy demands of resprouting. The fire response of the listed threatened species *Acacia aphylla* is generally unknown, although it is thought to regenerate from seed after fire (DEE 2008).

Little is known about the frequency of fire to which the northern Jarrah forest ecological community has adapted. A study examining fire scars on Balga (*Xanthorrhoea pressei*) in the Perth hills concluded that in the 150 years prior to European settlement, plants had been burnt on average every 50 years, increasing to once every 10 years on average post settlement (Lamont & Downes 1979).

Burrows, Ward & Robinson (1995) found evidence of fire injury on Jarrah to be about 81 years pre-European settlement, and every 17 years on average after colonisation.

They postulate that frequent low intensity burns predominately occurring during summer and autumn, lit by Aboriginal people managing the land prior to European colonisation, resulted in overall less high intensity fires resulting in much reduced fire injury on Jarrah.

In addition, Burrows (2008) states that in many south-west ecosystems, species are likely to be lost from plant communities when fire intervals exceed 35 to 40 years due to limits to the survival of seed stored in soil over time, however there has been little research into seed bank longevity or the vegetation composition of regenerating plant species in long unburnt forests post fire.
Fire and native fauna

Fire can benefit some animal species by resulting in an increase in regenerating food sources, such as new leaf growth and increased nectar availability from post-fire flowering of some plant species. Decreased plant cover can also increase hunting success for predators such as owls and eagles.

High intensity fires have been shown to increase the formation of tree hollows over time which benefits animals that require hollows for breeding (Inions et al. 1989). However, fire can also negatively affect some animal species as a result of a lack of mobility to escape the fire, habitat cover to protect from predators post-fire, and suitable food sources and habitat structure immediately after fire (Hussey & Wallace 2009).

Low intensity fires can potentially lead to a reduction in the number of fallen logs that can be used as habitat within the burnt area, without creating new ones to replace them (Inions et al. 1989). Reduced fire intervals can lead to the loss of animal species from an area, particularly where there are no unburnt patches within or nearby to assist recolonization or provide cover. For example, Honey Possum populations have been found to require approximately 25 to 30 years to recover from fire, with densities greater in native vegetation with time since last burn longer than this period (Bradshaw & Bradshaw 2017, Wilson et al. 2014, Everaardt 2003).

Populations of Quenda can also be reduced immediately post fire in areas where there are no close unburnt refugia, as they require dense cover from predation and leaf litter for food (Bryant et al. 2017, Haby et al. 2013).

Appendices

Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

This has also been observed after fire in populations of small birds (Davis et al. 2016). Too frequent fire that leads to the loss of shrub species can negatively affect the amount of food and habitat sources available for some species of animals, including the threatened cockatoo species (Hussey & Wallace 2009, Woinarski & Recher 1997).

While very little is known about the response to fire of invertebrates, some studies have reported a number of species that occur only in habitat features that are not present for some time after the passage of fire, such as the dead thatch of Balga skirts (*Xanthorrhoea* spp.) which are consumed by fire and take some time to re-establish post fire (Brennan et al. 2010). In addition, some invertebrate species have limited dispersal abilities and so are slower to recolonize post fire than others (Moir et al. 2005).

The inclusion of unburnt areas within bushland can assist in the conservation of many fauna species that utilize the area. The protection of habitat trees and ground logs during hazard reduction burns can assist in providing breeding sites and cover for fauna in the newly burnt areas. Maintaining habitat such as nearby unburnt vegetation cover, including the unburnt skirts of *Xanthorrhoea preissii* (Balga), can help protect Quenda and other native fauna that rely on cover, as can implementing feral animal control techniques immediately before and after a fire.

Fire season

The season in which burning occurs is also important to the effect fire has on plant communities. It is widely thought that historically the vast majority of fires, both caused by lightning or lit by aboriginal people, occurred during late summer and autumn (Burrows 2008).

Fires at this time of year can be of a high intensity and result in the deaths of a large number of plant species.

However, fires of this intensity can crack seed cones and break the dormancy of some buried seeds, aiding in the reproduction of obligate seeders. In addition, the fires at this time of year would shortly be followed by winter rains, further assisting regeneration (Hussey & Wallace 2009).

The timing of rainfall is critical in the successful regeneration of plant species after fire. Regenerating plants after a fire in autumn have greater probability of success than after a spring fire as rainfall, optimal germination and growing conditions occur immediately after an autumn fire in the region. Post-fire germinating seedlings in climates with strong seasonal rainfall, such as that experienced in south-western Australia, are more likely to survive when fire occurs just prior to the onset of the wet season (Miller et al. 2019).

In contrast, fires that occur in the middle of winter are of a much lower intensity and leave many unburnt patches. Soil stored seed dormancy is not broken and fire sensitive plants, such as orchids, can be killed above ground. These plants are usually not affected by summer or autumn burns as they have a below ground dormancy period at this time. The heat of the fire lit in spring is usually not high enough to crack soil stored seed dormancy. Although surface seed germination is usually stimulated, that year's seed production is usually destroyed by the fire. Lack of rainfall over summer is thought to favour re-sprouting plants over obligate seeders after a spring burn due to reduced number of seedling survival (Spencer 2018).

Optimal fire regime

While much still remains unknown about optimal fire regimes for the Jarrah forest, what seems certain is that no one fire regime benefits all organisms or ecosystems present (Burrows 2008, Spencer 2018). Based on this, the current consensus for determining appropriate fire regimes for the conservation of the northern Jarrah forest is to facilitate burns in mosaic patterns through the landscape with different fire frequency intervals.

Ideally these burns should be conducted in a variety of different conditions and of different intensities, with minimum time since last burn corresponding with the time required for all plants species to reach adequate post-fire reproductive capability (Hussey & Wallace 2009). Given that adequate reproductive capability is often unknown, minimum recommended time between burns has been given as twice as long as the period it takes for the slowest known growing seeders to flower (Spencer 2018).

It has been hypothesized based on the current available dataset on plant species responses to fire that a minimum of 6 to 8 years between fires in the northern Jarrah forest would enable the majority of plant species to regenerate (Burrows et al. 2008).

However, the juvenile period in plants of the south-west forest has been shown to be greatly increased in lower rainfall Jarrah forest locations such as at the reserve. In addition, the trend of decreasing rainfall demonstrates the need for conservative estimates of plant maturity when applying current datasets (Burrows et al. 2008).

Factoring in the number of species present for which no knowledge of maturity has been obtained, and the potential delaying effect of changing environmental conditions such as reduced rainfall, more conservative time frames are often recommended to maintain the ecological integrity of ecosystems when HR burning is required for fire management purposes.

There have been numerous cases in the south-west of reduced fire intervals negatively affecting the survival of species (Spencer 2018), and too frequent fire is a common threatening process for many of the south-west rare and threatened species and communities. This is particularly true for the ongoing survival of plant species that rely on soil or cone stored seed to germinate post-fire. In this case, fire intervals need to be greater than the amount of time it takes the plant to mature and produce an effective amount of seed in order to produce replacement plants should they be killed by fire (Burrows 2008).

While most common obligate seeder species in the Jarrah forest have relatively short time to first flowering times of between 3 to 5 years (Burrows et al. 2008), caution must be exercised in correlating flowering with successful seed production. For example, despite flowering only three to four years after a fire, a common plant species of the south-west, Parrotbush (*Banksia sessilis*), was found to set seed only eight years post fire (Hussey & Wallace 2009).

Maximum nectar production was not reached until 12 to 15 years post fire which has further ecological implications for nectar feeding birds and mammals.

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Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

Too frequent fire in fragmented landscapes is often the result of increased ignition sources from nearby urban development in combination with an increase in hazard reduction burning undertaken to reduce bushfire risk to adjacent development. An increased risk of artificial ignition through both unintentional means (car exhaust, discarded cigarette butt, sparks from machinery) and arson increases the risk that any planned hazard reduction burning undertaken will increase fire frequency and result in negative impacts on native vegetation communities present.

While too frequent fire can result in the loss of obligate seeder species from plant communities, very long inter-fire periods may also result in the loss of these species due to senescence. Woody shrub species are generally not as long lived as other plant species and need fire in order to promote regeneration via the germination of canopy or soil stored seed. Low intensity prescribed fire may assist in regeneration of these species if senescence and decline is observed.

Piles of fallen branches and dead plants that are placed away from trees, Balga and large living shrubs may create patches of hot fire that can assist in the regeneration of species that respond well to hot fire. Small areas of prescribed fire within a reserve can also increase the fine grain mosaic of different habitat ages through diversifying the time since last fire (Burrows 2008).

Of the data that has been collected to date, it seems likely that not all species regenerate in response to fire in the same way or at the same time scale, with different species benefitted through either more or less frequent fire.

In the Jarrah forest, Spencer (2018) recommends hazard reduction burning is conducted with minimum fire frequencies of 15 to 25 years, or three to four times the longest known juvenile period of obligate seeder plants that occur.

The longest known juvenile period for an obligate seeder recorded at the site is *Hakea trifurcata*, which has been recorded producing seed for the first time 48 months (4 years) following fire. This would suggest a minimum known fire interval of between 12 and 16 years is suitable for this species (Dec 2011).

Due to the known presence of some animal species that increase in abundance around this time since last fire is reached, most likely in response to the regeneration of habitat structural elements and/ or maximum nectar or seed production in vegetation post fire, retaining some areas of forests with longer fire intervals should be prioritized for conservation where possible.

The relative lack of research into invertebrates, fungi and other lesser known groups that are likely to contain species that require habitat only present in longer unburnt vegetation is also an important factor in conserving Jarrah forest within the landscape past the recommended minimum fire frequency periods. In addition, there is little research into the effects of fire frequencies at the recommended minimum interval on ecosystem resilience, particularly in the presence of human disturbance such as introduced diseases, plants and animals.

A balanced approach

Overall, it seems likely that a diversity of fire frequencies, burn seasons and intensities throughout the landscape is required to maximise biodiversity and the health of forest ecosystems (Spencer 2018). With much still unknown about the effects of fire on ecological communities, monitoring and adaptive management is vitally important for preserving optimal biodiversity in ecological communities through the use or exclusion of fire (DEE 2017). Ongoing monitoring undertaken to observe and react to any decline in species that may occur from the frequency, seasonality or absence of fire in the future is highly recommended.

It is also important to monitor the effects of any fire management actions undertaken in high conservation areas in order to develop site-specific understanding of the responses, as well as to apply a cautionary approach that aims to prevent loss or degradation of the high quality ecological communities.

There is still much to learn about the effects of fire on the flora and fauna found in the Shire. There may be opportunities to partner with state agencies and universities to participate in targeted research to help inform management decisions that aim to both conserve environmental values, while reducing the threat to lives and adjacent assets if a bushfire occurs.

This summary of fire ecology was prepared for the Shire of Mundaring by Bushfire Safety Consulting (2022). Relevant references from their report are below:

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Appendices

Appendix 5: Fire and Biodiversity Issues

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Appendices

Appendix 6: Dieback Management Priorities

Phytophthora Dieback

Phytophthora cinnamomi (*P.cinnamomi*) is an introduced microscopic pathogen that is often referred to as a fungus. While it shares some characteristics of true fungi it is in fact a type of water mould and can survive in both soil and water. Phytophthora Dieback ('Dieback') refers to the disease that can occur when susceptible plants are exposed to *P.cinnamomi*. While some plant species are resistant to the pathogen, others are very susceptible, resulting in decline and death.

P.cinnamomi is present in all States and Territories of Australia where it causes disease in an extremely diverse range of native, ornamental, forestry and horticultural plants. It is believed that *P.cinnamomi* was introduced to Australia by early European settlers importing infested horticultural plants. Since the mid 1960's to early 1970's *P.cinnamomi* has been recognised as a serious pathogen in native ecosystems of Australia.

The pathogen can infect a range of native plants in Southwest WA, predominantly from the *Ericaceae*, *Fabaceae*, *Myrtaceae*, *Proteaceae*, and *Xanthorrhoeaceae* families. Although several *Phytophthora* species occur in Western Australia, *P.cinnamomi* is the most virulent and pathogenic. *P.cinnamomi* can also affect a range of horticultural crops and garden plants including apples, peaches, olives, avocados, camellias and roses. Other species of *Phytophthora* found in WA, such as *Phytophthora multivora*, are less virulent and significantly less widespread than *P.cinnamomi*.

Dieback in Western Australia

Dieback is a significant environmental issue for natural areas between Geraldton in the Midwest and Esperance on the South Coast, and it is widespread in the Southwest region. The pathogen rarely occurs in areas receiving less than 400 mm annual rainfall.

The most recent Western Australian State of the Environment Report lists Dieback as a Priority 1 threat to biodiversity. A recent review of threats to species listed as threatened under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 shows that *P.cinnamomi* is the second greatest invasive species threat in Australia after rabbits.

Dieback is a serious concern in WA for the following reasons:

- Over 1 million hectares of land in south west WA is affected, including many national parks, nature reserves and metropolitan bushland
- 40% of native plant species in the south west (over 2,200 species) are susceptible to the pathogen, including almost 50% of endangered and threatened flora
- Up to 20% of the State's Jarrah forest and up to 80% of the Stirling Range National Park is affected
- Changes in the composition and structure of floral communities resulting from the spread of Dieback have flow-on impacts throughout the ecosystem, including habitat alteration that can negatively affect indigenous fauna populations.
- Dieback can lead to significant soil erosion through the loss of susceptible vegetation as well as increased dominance of Dieback resistant plants such as grasses, rushes and sedges and weeds.

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Appendix 6: Dieback Management Priorities

Local Government agencies are required to manage Dieback *Phytophthora Dieback* management under several regulatory mechanisms including the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (which lists *Phytophthora Dieback* as a key threatening process) and the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

How Dieback is spread

Dieback is spread through the movement of water and soil within the landscape. Whilst it is possible for native and pest animals to spread the pathogen, by far the most significant vector of *P. cinnamomi* in the natural environment is human activity. Humans have the capacity to disturb and transport more soil than any other vector, and all human activities carry some likelihood of spreading *P. cinnamomi*.

Major vectors of Dieback include wet soil adhering to vehicle tyres and earthmoving equipment. By far, most of the large areas of infestation that exist today in southern temperate Australia occurred as a result of human activity, often as a direct result of the introducing infested soil or road-building materials to vulnerable uninfested areas. Therefore, access restrictions and quarantine management procedures can be effective tools in reducing the spread of Dieback in natural areas.

Active spread by native and feral animals is difficult and prohibitively expensive to control. Active spread in subsurface water is difficult to control, however, under certain circumstances and to some degree surface drainage can be controlled.

Unfortunately, it is extremely difficult to completely eradicate *P. cinnamomi* from an infested site, and there is no evidence to suggest that the pathogen will disappear from a site once it has killed all of the most susceptible plant species. *P. cinnamomi* is thought to be able to survive long-periods of unfavourable conditions through the production of chlamydospores. However, there are still significant gaps in knowledge about the exact mechanisms of long-term pathogen survival.

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Appendix 6: Dieback Management Priorities

Dieback in the Shire

In 2019, the Shire of Mundaring commissioned Dieback consultants to undertake a comprehensive Dieback assessment of 33 priority Shire managed bushland reserves. The objective of the assessment was to confirm and map the extent of Dieback infestation within each reserve and identify Dieback free areas that can be protected from infestation in the long term.

The assessment confirmed the presence of Dieback in varying degrees in all of the reserves except for two (which were deemed to be uninterpretable due to a lack of Dieback indicator species).

Dieback was found to be widespread in the lower slopes, along drainage lines and water-gaining sites in many reserves. Infestations were also frequently mapped along access tracks, trails, firebreaks, old gravel pits and disturbed areas.

To date, a total of 15 reserves have been identified as having uninfested areas which are large enough to be ecologically viable and protectable from Dieback infestation in the medium to very long term (20 years to over 100 years). The assessment recommended a number of actions to prevent Dieback spreading to uninfested areas in priority reserves including:

- Treating the interface of infested and uninfested protectable areas with phosphite (a fungicide that slows the spread of *P.cinmamomi*)
- Review, update and implement management protocols for vehicle and machinery access to reserves

- Review and update Dieback signage in the reserves to delineate infested areas and uninfested areas and provide information for users to assist in preventing further spread
- Revegetate Dieback affected areas with Dieback resistant species or species that have a low susceptibility to *P. cinnamomi* infection. Revegetating areas that are infested or degraded will have a number of benefits including restoration of ecological function, reduced weed invasion, reduced soil erosion, improvement of visual amenity
- Continue to assist Friends groups to be more effective in undertaking conservation works in Dieback affected areas.
- Continue to monitor and map disease activity in priority reserves and treat where required

References:

Terratree Pty Ltd (2020). *Phytophthora Dieback Assessment of Shire of Mundaring Priority Bushland*. Report prepared for the Shire of Mundaring.

Appendices

Appendix 7: Priority Weed Species

It is impossible to eradicate all weed species. Shire resources and community weed control efforts should be focussed on weeds that have worse impacts, including rapid spreading capability, or increasing bushfire risk. The impact and invasiveness of weeds occurring within the Shire of Mundaring has been assessed using:

- the national list of significant weeds (Weeds of National Significance, Weeds Australia, 2019)
- the Western Australian Organism List (WAOL) database, which lists declared pest species classified under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (WA) (DPIRD, 2019)
- the Swan Region impact and invasiveness rating of weeds (DBCA, 2016)
- knowledge and experience of staff working within Shire managed reserves.

Common Name	Species Name
African Lovegrass	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>
Arum Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>
Bitou Bush	<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. monilifera</i>
Black Flag	<i>Ferraria crispa</i>
Blackberry	<i>Rubus spp.</i>
Bridal Creeper	<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>
Brazilian Pepper	<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>
Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>
Coast Teatree	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>
Doublegee	<i>Rumex hypogaeus (Emex australis)</i>
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>
Flaxleaf Broom	<i>Genista linifolia</i>
Freesia	<i>Freesia alba x leichtlinii</i>
Fountain Grass	<i>Cenchrus setaceus</i>
Lantana	<i>Lantana camara</i>
Lavender	<i>Lavandula stoechas</i>
Madiera Vine	<i>Anredera cordifolia</i>
Narrowleaf Cottonbush	<i>Gomphocarpus fruticosus</i>
One-leaf Cape Tulip	<i>Moraea flaccida</i>

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Appendix 7: Priority Weed Species

Common Name	Species Name
Paterson's Curse	<i>Echium plantagineum</i>
Perennial Veldt Grass	<i>Ehrharta calycina</i>
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia sp</i>
Tagasaste	<i>Chamaecytisus palmensis</i>
Tambookie Grass	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>
Watsonia	<i>Watsonia spp.</i>
Weedy Wattles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cootamundra • Early Black Wattle • Flinder's Range Wattle • Golden Wattle • Sydney Gold Wattle • Queensland Silver Wattle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acacia baileyana</i> • <i>Acacia decurrens</i> • <i>Acacia iteaphylla</i> • <i>Acacia pycnantha</i> • <i>Acacia longifolia</i> • <i>Acacia podalyriifolia</i>
Wild Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus caryophyllaceus</i> & <i>Gladiolus undulatus</i>



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LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

Schedule of Submissions

No.	Submitter Address	Comment
1.	Sawyers Road Sawyers Valley	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Strategy.</p> <p>Strongly support the increase of staff levels, particularly in relation to a reserve management officer who has extensive ecological expertise and can liaise between Friends Groups and Fire Officers.</p> <p>Action 1.2 - The on-ground Landcare Team is essential and needs to be increased rather than maintained. These officers are crucial in supporting the Friends Groups in carrying out the work they do.</p> <p>Do not support the rationalisation of reserves. The argument that degraded reserves need to be sold for income to be spent on priority reserves does not adequately consider their importance as wildlife habitat and their function in wildlife corridors. The short-term financial gain is not as valuable as the long term ecological value of reserves, whether they be degraded or not. Degraded native vegetation can be improved. The physical and mental health offered by natural areas warrants the improvement of reserves rather than the selling of them.</p> <p>Strongly support developing a network of reserves and private land as recognised and celebrated wildlife corridors.</p> <p>In terms of conservation on private land, there needs to be legislation protecting the biodiversity and riparian vegetation of living streams. This legislation would be similar to the legislation enabling the Shire to enforce fire mitigation on private properties.</p> <p>Wildlife corridors and living streams are increasingly important refuges for plants and animals, particularly with the increasing impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Action 2.34 Strongly support establishment of a Landcare Centre as a medium-term priority with consideration for such a centre to be included in the Multi-purpose Community Facility.</p>
2.	Lauffer Way Mahogany Creek	<p>Great work.</p> <p>Please ban the use of rodenticides and glue traps to kill pests and glyphosate based weed killers. My reasons are obvious...indirect killing of wild life by rodenticides and glue traps and potential dangers from glyphosate poisons. Local laws should place responsibility for wildlife relocation or protection squarely on the developer of all lands in our shire. It is currently too easy for developers to pass the buck and leave wildlife protection as shire or state responsibility.</p>
3.	Grassy View Gidgegannup	<p>The draft Local Biodiversity Strategy comprehensively outlines the complex issues known to be involved in conserving biodiversity within the Shire of Mundaring. It acknowledges the complexity relatively well and provides a nuanced approach to the problem. Overall I think it is very good. A few minor comments I have on the strategy include:</p>

		<p>- Page 8 describes how evidence suggests aboriginal people historically burnt the forests in the south-west regularly. I agree with this statement but think that it infers that aboriginal people conducted low intensity burns in all of the forest within the south-west, whereas evidence also suggests that in addition, there were many areas that weren't burnt regularly by aboriginal people and that generally only experienced fire occasional, often as a result of fire started by lightning etc. This distinction is important in understanding diversity as a evolutionary function of time since last fire, with important differences in the species composition of forests with short time since last fire, compared to longer time since last fire.</p> <p>- The importance of fire management in conserving biodiversity is acknowledged, as is the need to conserve areas of bushland with different regeneration ages as a result of different time since last fire. I think it would be good to explicitly state the importance of conservation values that are critical to conserving biodiversity that are predominately present in longer unburnt sites. These values need to be balanced against the effectiveness of prescribed burning and their location in the landscape for bushfire protection but ultimately do need to be recognised and considered. It is also important to recognise that bushfire risk does not continue to increase indefinitely in longer unburnt vegetation but reaches a well researched and accepted plateau, so conserving longer burnt areas of vegetation will not continue indefinitely to increase bushfire risk.</p> <p>- I fully support a call for more resources to engage directly with the community, including visits to existing residential properties and more targeting of information available to residents, to conserve biodiversity within private property. This should also include information to better balance biodiversity and bushfire risk reduction within the landscape.</p> <p>- The development of site specific objectives and targeted application of selected management tools appropriate to the site, as well as continuing research to improve the knowledge base and monitoring to ensure objectives were met, will be the most effective way of optimising biodiversity conservation in the Shire. It may be that the Shire of Mundaring will make the greatest contribution by recruiting, educating, assisting with planning/ resourcing and overall empowering keen residents to make a difference in their own patch.</p>
4.	Stone Street Chidlow	<p>1.1. Biodiversity and watercourse integrity should be maintained and mitigation measures will be considered where the works cannot be designed or constructed to avoid impacts. Creeks must be protected at all cost without mitigation. Creeks and lowlands are extremely important to the rest of our ecosystem</p> <p>1.2. The Shire will strive to lead by example in balancing bushfire risk management with maintaining biodiversity and conservation of natural landscapes. For this end, bush mulching must be avoided and weeding strategy planned properly, for the weeds are more of a threat to our bush re-bushfire and loss of biodiversity than anything else.. Burning off tons of fallen logs while burning off forests is a real waste of stored carbon, and increases our emissions more than anything else, for not only it is not stored anymore, but it is released. Our shire must thrive to retain all material such as fallen logs by communicating with relevant persons.</p> <p>1.3. Allocation of Shire resources for natural area management will take into account social and ecological values and the nature of threatening processes. Good. Human beings need nature to live and survive. it is an integral part of our needs.</p>

		<p>1.4. Human induced climate change is recognised as a key threat to biodiversity, requiring mitigation action to reduce carbon emissions at all levels of government, and adaptation to local impacts. Burning off of logs, and mulch, again is increasing emissions. Awareness needs to be raised in relevant government agencies so that burning off is conducted seldom and on small scale only where it is near habitations. This in itself would reduce emissions.</p> <p>3.1. The Shire recognises that healthy ecosystems and well-managed natural areas support the health and well-being of the community, and the Shire will strive to lead by example as a responsible custodian of public environmental assets. Agreed. Therefore burning off needs to be conducted only in autumn, after fauna and flora have naturally produced offsprings. also, much effort is needed to engage population towards caring for our bush. education is important. and continuing to support volunteers and help them find more volunteers (market stall in Mundaring market, pamphlets, information boards...)</p> <p>4.2. The Shire will remain agile; learning and collaborating with community groups, research in situations and relevant government agencies to adapt best practice environmental management to fit the Shire's context. Great.</p>
5.	Alps St, Mt Helena	<p>The report is an excellent overview and consolidating environmental strategies is essential. There are always competing priorities for scarce financial resources but the realities of climate change mean that more money should be put towards protecting what we have. Lobbying both the state and federal governments to increase the money for environmental purposes should be something that the Council is doing so that long, and midterm objectives become short term. Time is fast running out.</p> <p>I strongly support the increase of staff levels, particularly in relation to a reserve management officer who has extensive ecological expertise and can liaise between Friends Groups and Fire Officers.</p> <p>Action 1.2 The on-ground Landcare Team is essential and needs to be increased rather than maintained. These officers are crucial in supporting the Friends Groups in carrying out the work they do.</p> <p>Action 2.34 Strongly support establishment of a Landcare Centre as a medium-term priority with consideration for such a centre to be included in the Multi-purpose Community Facility.</p> <p>Action 3.7 Under road rains that act as wildlife tunnels as soon as possible.</p> <p>Action 3.8 Immediate changes are needed as weeds that could be removed are proliferating.</p> <p>I don't support the rationalisation of reserves. The argument that degraded reserves need to be sold for income to be spent on priority reserves does not adequately consider their importance as wildlife habitat and their function in wildlife corridors. The short-term financial gain is not as valuable as the long-term ecological value of reserves, whether they be degraded or not. Degraded native vegetation can be improved.</p>

		<p>Strongly support developing a network of reserves and private land as recognised and celebrated wildlife corridors. The Heritage Trail, a corridor that can encompass both recreation and habitat protection is one example that could be emulated.</p> <p>In terms of conservation on private land, there needs to be legislation protecting the biodiversity and riparian vegetation of living streams. This legislation would be like the legislation enabling the Shire to enforce fire mitigation on private properties.</p> <p>Wildlife corridors and living streams are increasingly important refuges for plants and animals, particularly with the increasing impacts of climate change. (Action 2.16 (dams) -Immediate action)</p> <p>Mundaring is not a city LGA. The south west is Australia's only Global Biodiversity Hotspot and we are custodians of a section that still has much to protect. Employing ecologists and on ground workers to assist us in this is money well spent.</p>
6.	Dean Street, Mount Helena	<p>In my section of the wildlife corridor I have a small dam that is habitat for long-necked turtles as well as many birds. If there was assistance available for someone to come and help control the really difficult weeds like bamboo (which spread into the property from the verge) that would be appreciated. I have been persisting in cutting it out but it is regrowing and I am finding it harder to tackle as I'm getting older, and the shoots have previously caused me to fall. There is a seasonal opportunity to get in to control the bamboo when the dam dries out.</p>
7.	Johnston St, Mt Helena	<p>Thank you. This is a solid, well-presented and logical document. It balances the competing demands facing the Shire (and residents) in seeking to protect natural assets and mitigate fire risk.</p> <p>However, there are some areas that could do with a bit more content and/or clarity. eg WATER. The linkages between the Watercourse Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy (especially the Wildlife Corridors concept) can be explained more fully: they are canvassed, but a bit more detail is needed (in the same clear language the document uses). Principal messages coming from the Watercourse consultant were: detain water in the Hills - slow it down, hang on to it longer. (Tell this story). And a significant purpose of the Watercourse research work was to recognise the vital role of water in biodiversity. A paragraph addressing this would serve the community well.</p> <p>FIRE. The 2016 research into vegetation and asset protection should be made more prominent. Doing so will help protect people and dwellings better as well as help residents de-stress about fire risk (not relax, de-stress) and make better informed decisions about what to do in asset protection zones. De-stressed people will be better able to make well-informed decisions that balance habitat, biodiversity and bushfire safety.</p> <p>PRIVATE LAND. More detail please. I know there are legislative and common law limits on what the Shire can do, but ... something more is needed here. If a percentage of proposed subdivision land is to be set aside for 'public open space' then the (currently obscure) criteria for variations on this should be clearer and include a requirement that variation decisions are bound by a principle that prioritises environmental and ecological values. The Draft notes "A deeper sense of custodianship of land and water will be required, as well as a willingness by all stakeholders to communicate, collaborate and continuously improve land management practices" but does little in the way of guiding how that might happen.</p>

		<p>The notion of custodianship is an example of terms/concepts used that are not adequately clarified and are likely to be ill-understood. This concept needs a much clearer articulation and its use should be constrained by clear criteria. It's a good idea, but please do more to make it a coherent idea in the context of this Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>CORRIDORS. Make it clearer that wildlife corridors are not only watercourses but are a combination of watercourses, local natural areas and private natural areas. It's in the Draft but is not sufficiently clear for people who do not have prior knowledge of the Shire's work on water, habitat and wildlife. These form a synergy: please make that point.</p> <p>I'll finish as I started. This is a good document, but it can be better in places. Thank you for this work.</p>
8.	Bambrook St, Sawyers Valley	<p><i>Please see my attached letter. I have not gone into detail but support strong / tough strategies. If good enough and they do not dodge and weave re: the environmental and human disasters facing us, they will take strong, moral and courageous councillors to implement Large and urgent action on all fronts must happen now.</i></p> <p>Thanks for the invitation to last night's workshop. I could be absorbed for hours listening to David from Acacia Springs Environmental.</p> <p>My thoughts on the involvement of Friend' and Catchment groups on Water and Riparian Strategies and Local Biodiversity Strategies matters, and things environmental and climate change within the shire are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. These groups should be treated like quasi shire departments and as well as treated like consulting experts of environmental matters arising in the Shire. There is a wealth of technical and local knowledge within these groups, garnered over many, many years; 2. The interface between the environmental groups and the shire should be hierarchical in nature. Each splinter group having their say would be overwhelming, conflicting, and inefficient; 3. I suggest the Friends Groups report to their primary Catchment Group. The Catchment Groups in turn have delegates (say three per Catchment Group) to sit on an overarching body of shire people, catchment groups and consultants that formulate plans and actions in accordance with the agreed above strategies. That is the body has real power within the Shire's by laws; . 4. There must be open, written communication of all current works and planned works (in sufficient time to be effectively considered) between the Shire and the overarching body; <p>This would eliminate the alienation and frustrations between the Shire, these groups and the wider community.</p> <p>Details would need to be thrashed as to veto rights of the parties, weight given to decisions making processes, reporting requirements, etc of this body.</p>

		<p>Other points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I like the idea of a written, strong Mission Statements and an overarching environmental policy by the Shire; 2. The shire must engage, support and enthuse their ratepayers in all things environmental. Without the ratepayers coming along with the shire on their environmental strategies, all the words and plans are will not see the the objectives of the strategies reached; 3. The catchment groups need a lot a manpower and technical grunt coming from the Shire. Grant submissions are becoming more convoluted, more detailed, more financial and technical information is required and they are more time consuming. It would also be prudent for the Catchment Group’s submissions for grants and the subsequent projects to correctly align with the Shire’s overall and detailed environmental strategies, and objectives. There is also “on the ground” serious technical help needed. Topographical surveys, bushland coverage surveys, flora and fauna surveys, water flow surveys to name few. 4. I suspect some the above points may be in train but believe the most important consideration is more open, honest and frequent dialogue between the Shire and the groups. <p>The canaries are singing loudly in the coal mines! We are staring a serious tipping point in the near future unless on the ground actions are taken. Sadly, I fear we may be too late despite all our words.</p>
9.	Perth NRM	<p>Key comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Eastern Region Landcare Program supports a significant network of environmental volunteers in the region. It has been going in one form or another for more than 25 years. It is disappointing that it is not acknowledged in this document. 2. Table 2 (2.34) An equivalent program to SERCUL, Landcare SJ, and Chittering Landcare Centre already exists in the region. Supporting the existing program (Eastern Region Landcare) rather than aiming to set up a competing one, will result in greater benefits to volunteer groups and the local environment. 3. pg 50 With additional support for the ERL program, capacity to undertake private landholder site visits and provide sound technical advice on bushland and waterway protection, restoration and management could be improved easily. Having an independent organisation approach private landholders on environmental issues can be more effective. It would also help to create linkages with local volunteer groups, training, information and regional programs and may assist in attracting new volunteers to existing groups. The ERL program could also assist with funding applications to support waterway restoration on private property. - this could be implemented by adding an action such as ‘Develop a business case to support the Eastern Region Landcare (ERL) program to provide a greater level of support to the ERL volunteer network and to provide capacity for ERL to undertake private landholder site visits and provide sound environmental advice to private landholders’.

	<p>4. table 2 (2.7) could be about supporting increased capacity in the ERL program to deliver private landholder site visits and provide sound environmental advice to residents.</p> <p>5. pg 27. Forestry mulching of bushland without a clearing permit is not an appropriate practice for protecting biodiversity and is not a legal practice for reducing fuel loads or managing prescribed burns. It definitely should not be referred to within the LBS as standard practice.</p> <p>6. the mechanism for better planning, discussion and collaboration between the fire control officers and Friends and Catchment group volunteers is unclear. This has been a big issue for volunteers recently. It also has the potential to significantly reduce both the funding attracted to the Shire of Mundaring (through grant bodies being uncertain that their investment is secure) and reducing volunteer efforts (as they are increasingly unsure if their efforts will be maintained). Therefore, it would be good to really spell out how the Shire plans to manage this issue adequately. ERL could play a role too in working collaboratively and setting up demonstration projects which achieve reduced fuel and fire hazards in an environmentally sensitive manor.</p> <p>7. The LBS lacks a coordinated regional or strategic approach eg. feral animal control, environmental weed priorities etc. An action such as 'Participate in regional programs and seek opportunities to collaborate with other organisations and programs within the region to set priorities for environmental threat management' would be great to see.</p> <p>8. In some of the text of this strategy there is a wonderful acknowledgement of the value of the Shire of Mundaring volunteer networks contribution. It would provide context and be more impactful to put a dollar value on it. Eg. In a recent community capacity assessment by Perth NRM, 216 environmental volunteers contributed \$5,467,954.92 via 114,000 hours of volunteering per year.</p> <p>9. pg 44. The discussion of the value of volunteers and the judgement of priority expenditure of grants in this section is very harsh and I think a lot of volunteers would take exception to this. The purpose of this approach here is unclear as I don't think the phrasing of this section will inspire the community to seek funding to work on Shire of Mundaring priorities. It also is at odds with other comments in the text. Such as the value of volunteers and the recognised need for working on private properties and other reserves more broadly to control weeds. Do the 1CG and 8FG's account for individual grants? Are they one off grants or multiple grants? How does this compare to the Shire of Mundarings' ability to attract grant funding without Catchment group or Friends group support? Consider focusing on what changes the Shire would like to encourage.</p> <p>Other minor comments:</p> <p>10. pg 2 - image not acknowledged or credited</p> <p>11. pg 16 ecommended (typo)</p> <p>12. pg 26 – referring to bushland as “needing fire” is misleading as the vast majority of our local native species are resprouters (which do not need fire) rather than obligate seeders. Additionally, seed dormancy for most local native species is not broken by smoke or heat.</p> <p>12. pg 35 - inclusion of a specific project and funding acknowledgement is out of place in a long-term strategy document. This document has more longevity than the project. Other projects occurring in the region are not included. Perhaps</p>
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		<p>instead have a general discussion and statements such as 'The Shire of Mundaring supports ongoing research into key environmental issues'</p> <p>13. pg 36 – the phrasing of the need for a clearing permit in this section is misleading. This text makes it sound like the Shire is saying that it is not usually required so private landholders don't need to worry about it. There is no mention of Environmentally Sensitive Areas or Threatened Ecological Communities (meaning clearing exemptions do not apply).</p> <p>14. Pg 36. – it could be useful here too to explain why the Shire of Mundaring (uniquely) requires only habitat trees over 800mm to be recorded rather than being inline with state and federal guidelines of 500mm for Jarrah and Marri and 300mm for Wandoo and Salmon gum.</p> <p>15. pg 43 – "Access to expert advice, training, support and assistance by contractors and the Landcare team" is repeated on this page. Reference to the support provided by the ERL program could also be included here.</p> <p>16. Table 3 3.2 – this is an excellent initiative. I suggest more strongly wording this to encourage this practice and to make the seed available to Friends groups for restoration works on secure Shire reserves. If I can help with this guideline in the future please let me know.</p>
10.	Walker St, Mundaring	<p>Firstly, I would like to commend the shire officers who have worked on this strategy – there are some good initiatives and directions involved. Better communication is needed between the shire, and all those involved in landcare management of the reserves, notably the Friends and Catchment Groups, and the fire officers and volunteers.</p> <p>There needs to be an increase in support staff for the volunteers doing bushcare work. New methods of getting younger people involved need to be developed.</p> <p>The Landcare Crew of 2 do a fabulous job, but there are not enough of them. As volunteers doing bush care work, we cannot manage without them. Employing additional staff is necessary to improve the environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Wildlife corridors are an essential aim of the Friends and Catchment groups doing on ground landcare work. In a drying climate, there needs to be refuges for plants and animals. The watercourses of the shire offer the potential for this, but needs more education and encouragement for people not to clear watercourses, and to revegetate with local native species where possible. There is a fire risk involved, particularly in built up areas, and this also needs to be assessed.</p> <p>Rationalisation of reserves is not supported. Even though a reserve is degraded at the moment, these, these areas may be important linkages for wildlife and flora. Once sold, it is not possible to get these reserves back. The future needs of the community need to be considered. Many small reserves are important locally, and help in nature play and involvement with nature for local residents.</p> <p>Connection to nature is recognised internationally as becoming increasingly important for mental health.</p> <p>A landcare Centre would be a fantastic bonus as a focal point for Friends, Catchment groups as well as private landowners seeking information and contact with those involved in landcare in the Shire.</p>

		<p>Art collection policy to include works that celebrate the natural landscape and native species found within the Shire – this would be a good move in raising the awareness of the importance of our local environment – we live in a biodiversity hotspot and need to celebrate our unique flora and fauna. This is part of the shire’s identity which could be promoted.</p> <p>Improving understanding of seasonal animal behaviour would be beneficial eg turtle crossings under roads such as Riley Rd near Stoneville Rd intersection where turtles are killed trying to get to Jane Brook from the dam in William Adams Park.</p> <p>Advocate for review of traffic management requirements for roadside weed control – the lack of weed control on roadside verges adjacent to bush reserves this year, has led to an increased fire risk from weedy grasses, and also spreading weed seed into reserves. This needs to be addressed.</p>
11.	Address not provided	<p>Below are points submitted to the Draft Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 at the end of last year. I’m hoping they are also helpful for the Shires Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Plan Section: PART C – Managing our south-west forests 5.5.5 Weeds (Page 75) Key Points to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many biological elements that make up a healthy soil and thereby a healthy forest ecosystem. These are Bacteria, Nematodes, Fungi, Arthropods, Protozoa and organic matter made from waste, residue and metabolites from plants, animals and microbes. Invasive weeds are able to proliferate in certain ecosystems because of how well they colonise bacterial dominated soils. It is very apparent that weeds are the first plants to grow after a fire, flood, toxic runoff or mechanical damage. Weeds have a range of functions that have an impact on soil succession such as strong tap roots to break up clay, roots that provide an environment for nitrogen fixing bacteria, and erosion control through hairnet roots. <p>Link to the role weeds play in plant and biology succession Dr Elaine Ingham The Science of Returning Life to the Soil https://youtu.be/ZrncV5z6A9M Time marking 9:22</p> <p><i>On 1981, Ingham earned a PhD from the <u>Colorado State University</u> in microbiology with an emphasis in soil. Along with her husband Russ, who has a doctorate in zoology emphasizing <u>nematology</u>, she was offered a post-doctoral fellowship at the Natural Resource Ecology Lab at Colorado State University. In 1985, she accepted a Research Associate Fellowship at the <u>University of Georgia</u>. In 1986, Ingham moved to <u>Oregon State University</u> and joined the faculty in both Forest Science and Botany and Plant Pathology. She remained on faculty until 2001. Ingham has been an Affiliate Professor of Sustainable Living at <u>Maharishi University of Management</u> in Fairfield, Iowa, Adjunct Faculty at <u>Southern Cross University</u> in Lismore, New South Wales from 1999 to 2005, Visiting Professor with <u>Melbourne University</u> from 2004 to 2008,^[2] and was Program Chair of the <u>Ecological Society of America</u> from 1999 to 2000.^{[4][5]} She was named chief scientist at <u>The Rodale Institute</u> in 2011^{[3][6]} and was later director of research and an instructor at the Agricultural Celebration Institute’s farm in California.^[7] She is the founder of Soil Foodweb Inc,^[2] which works with <u>soil testing laboratories</u> to assess <u>soil biology</u>.^[8]</i></p> <p>Management activities</p> <p>2. Identify and preserve beneficial introduced plants or “weeds” in the WA forest system.</p> <p>Management Activities</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalogue the beneficial soil health potential of each weed. I.e. strong tap roots to break up clay, roots that provide an environment for nitrogen fixing bacteria and erosion control through hairnet roots. Create a risks vs benefits analysis of all weeds and revise weed management practices as needed. • Investigate how weed removal practices such as herbicides application and mechanical removal impact the soil life biome both short term and long term and devise weed management that support both soil microbiology and plants. Link to info on Glyphosate as a chelator, residual lifetime of 1 to 22 years, antibiotic qualities of glyphosate that promote pathogenic bacteria populations. Dr Don Huber - Glyphosate - Dangers and Soil Remediation https://youtu.be/kwdn_DVWxAA Time Marking 1:33 to 53:15 <i>Don Huber, Emeritus Professor at Purdue University and has been a plant physiologist and pathologist for over 40 years.</i> • Provide the information on beneficial weeds species and soil health promoting weed removal methods to businesses, land holders, catchment groups, community gardens, schools and the general public. <p>5.5.8 Soil and Water (Page 81)</p> <p>Key Points to Consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many biological elements that make up a healthy soil and thereby a healthy forest ecosystem. These are Bacteria, Nematodes, Fungi, Arthropods, Nematodes, Protozoa and organic matter made from waste, residue and metabolites from plants, animals and microbes. Each organism in the soil performs one or more critical functions which ensure good soil health that feed understory plants and canopy trees. • As soil microbiology performs critical functions it is important that we support them with appropriate growing conditions. To ensure they grow in adequate numbers needed for plant and tree health, most soil microbes need a good supply of soil carbon, water and ideal temperatures. <p>Management activities</p> <p>1. Minimise and manage the risk of adverse impacts of soil disturbance from activities undertaken in the area.</p> <p>Management Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and catalogue critical microbiology functions that ensure soil health for WA Forest Biodiversity. Investigate using native microbial inoculations sprays or inoculated mulches to rectify degraded or diseased ecosystems. e.g. Link to Soil and mulch amendments for suppression of Phytophthora cinnamomi https://1library.net/article/soil-mulch-amendments-suppression-phytophthora-cinnamomi.y9n3e8wz • Research how fire (and the removal of a leaf mulch layer) affects soil microbiology. Create a risks vs benefits analysis. Research the effectiveness of post-fire locally adapted microbial inoculant sprays or inoculated mulches to rebuild microbiology populations to pre-fire levels. The purpose of the inoculations is to assist soil succession by providing a microbial environment that promotes native seed germination thereby reducing erosion and eventually suppressing weeds. • Research how forest thinning affects soil microbiology. Create a risks vs benefits analysis. • Investigate how microbes can become airborne and facilitate a process called bio-precipitation and create rain. Investigate forest management practices that support bio-precipitation microbial activity.
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12.	Woolloomooloo Road Greenmount	<p>We agree that there needs to be an overall strategy for managing watercourses within the shire and look forward to working with the shire to maintain the creekline and to return it to a natural state where possible.</p> <p>We have a few questions and points to raise regarding the strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How will the strategy impact our property? The map in Figure 11 is not clear enough to see where our property lies and what we will be required to do. How will the shire support re-vegetation? We have previously obtained plants through the TCUP program with a significant number of these planted along our stretch of creekline. Now this program has been discontinued we have been forced to purchase plants which has reduced then amount of planting we have been able to do due to the cost. Our neighbours at .. Marloo Rd have a dam and drain that was installed by a previous owner, does the shire expect this to be removed and returned to a natural state and will there be assistance with this work? [Another neighbour on] .. Marloo Rd the owner has recently cleared and levelled a large section of the creekline. It appears they are planning to build a shed on the creek and there are presently multiple wrecked cars parked on/in the creekline. Will the shire allow development like this on the creek or will the owner be required to rectify this? We are concerned as to the impact of this development on the creek downstream. When it rains this has the potential to undo all the effort we have put in over the last 17 years in re-vegetating the creekline through our property.
13.	PO Box, Mundaring	<p>WILDLIFE CORRIDORS/ECOLOGICAL LINKS</p> <p>It is a good standalone aspirational document for MDG Shire but disappointing that a visionary goal to engage and to work with partner shires and to advocate government (both state and Federal) to look at the bigger picture is considered. Wildlife corridors and these ecological links should not be limited to within boundaries but to national parks in unbroken connections.</p> <p>If the bigger picture is not considered now - when it is gone, it is gone and this opportunity will be our loss forever . This vision needs to start here!</p> <p>EASTLINK: No consideration for how future wildlife corridors/ecological links and creations of fauna underpasses /safe access for the Eastlink highway planning for these to ensure these will be embedded into Main Roads Fauna management</p> <p>BUSHFIRE GUIDELINES</p> <p>The current bushfire protection measures are excessive and continues to create a dilemma in achieving an appropriate balance between bush fire risk management and planning. Currently it appears that the general enforcement to meet the bushfire guidelines have shown that the environmental values are discarded to higher order meet bushfire guidelines. How will the Shire reconcile necessary bushfire risk mitigation with biodiversity conservation is the biggest issue. There must be a balance not a trade off!</p> <p>An example of this seen on page 10 with the 2020 aerial photographs of Hovea/ Parkerville with its mixture of residential and semi-rural subdivision states this does not meet Bushfire Guide lines. As part of the Asset Protection Zones (APZ) up</p>

		<p>to 85% of these existing trees would need to be removed along with thinning of native vegetation - - meaning it would not look like this under today's requirements. Which is going to continually impact on reducing tree canopy through the shire. Yet this is the environment that makes the Hills that special place and confirmed and reinforced by community surveys that have repeatedly raised environment as a key priority and living up here among the trees.</p> <p>DEVELOPMENT Existing, new and planned development throughout the districts and the requirements to meet the Statutory Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas have shown to be excessive clearing and in conflict with maintaining and protecting biodiversity throughout the Shire . This can be seen with the planned North Stoneville development were to achieve it BAL- 29 rating, requires that clearance of significant areas of surrounding native vegetation and the removal of 85% of trees within an APZ creating significant negative environmental implications. Given we live in a BAL- FZ extreme risk area developers should be proactive or legislated to provide fire resilience housing design options and larger block sizes rather than the same cooker cutter designs providing the greatest profits.</p> <p>CATS Along with a increasing fox populations Cats are one of the biggest issues facing local fauna. Control of these is critical to ensure survival of native species within the Hills. New Cat Act laws need to be updated as a priority.</p> <p>FRIENDS GROUPS & WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT The question "How can you help Friends group do your job" should be the catch cry. If you continue to make it difficult for Friends groups to even use mechanical means, such as chainsaws this will just hamper these group. Rather than have to send a shire worker (resources SOM does not have) to do what the volunteers do ie cut down scrub tree, etc. Provide local inductions, training, and safety course to allows volunteers to use these tools (even though they may have been using them safely for 40 years!!) rather than just disallow. Change your thinking!!</p>
14.	Thomas Road Glen Forrest	<p>Please can we have a programme specific to the control of foxes within our shire.</p> <p>I have contacted the shire on numerous occasions re: foxes and active dens only to be given phone numbers of other authorities to contact with still no outcome. Everyone says its not their problem, yet I have been told that the land administrator is responsible for the control of vermin.</p> <p>I have contacted the shire and advised of an active den, physically marked it and offered to assist with its location at a convenient time.(being on the bridle trail in Glen Forrest). I have also been told this is shire land (administrators of the land)</p> <p>The shire themselves have handballed me from one department to another, everyone claiming its not their department. This has gone on for 3 weeks now.</p> <p>While I personally do not have chickens , I am aware that most of the residents in Glen Forrest who do have poultry have</p>

		<p>had recurring problems with foxes on their properties. We have had the same fox visit repeatedly (from a den only 500m away) it has taken wildlife on many occasions.</p> <p>Like many people in the hills, we encourage wildlife to our property, provide habitat for them and plan for the future yet our efforts are wasted by the increasing number of foxes. Apparently chuditch have been located locally after many years yet they will not stand a chance against foxes.</p> <p>I have also sighted "home poisoning" on a near by property which would kill more than its intended target.</p> <p>Please can we have an active ongoing programme to eradicate feral foxes.</p>
15.	Bilgoman Road Glen Forrest	Please consider making it mandatory for cats to be contained in a cat enclosure, or at very least within one's own yard with harsher penalties for not doing so, to benefit the wildlife in our shire. Roaming cats are becoming far too common and seriously affecting our native wildlife. Please bring the rules surrounding owning cats in line with the rules around dogs and having to contain them on one's own property with appropriate fencing. Thank you.
16.	Camfield Road Darlington	Please make regulations regarding cats to be contained at all times. Wildlife, quenda, bird life, other small animals are being lost due to unrestrained animals.
17.	PO Box, Darlington	Our half acre property is a haven for wildlife with many birds, including a Carnabys Cockatoo couple who come back every year to raise a chick in our nesting box. We have several Quendas and often see young ones dashing around and digging in the garden or lawn for grubs. We know when a neighbouring cat is hunting at our place as the Quendas and small birds disappear - we have seen cats on our night camera. We strongly believe that cats should be contained in a cat enclosure and not allowed to roam freely in this Shire.
18.	Lobelia Drive Darlington	We need to create more strict legislation regarding cats believe allowed to roam, particularly at night. Lately we have had countless encounters of cats attacking wildlife. There is not enough being done to stop this. I believe we need to put in a structured system that cats have to be kept in enclosures, and a reporting system that is backed up by the shire with fines and proper enforcement. We need to be able to have access to an effective system where we can add details and imagery. I am very passionate about our local wildlife and our biggest threat are domesticated cats with irresponsible owners. Lately I've noticed less bandicoots and I believe this may be the issue.
19.	Pine Terrace Darlington	There has been an increased number of dogs and cats not appropriately restrained at either night or during the day within shire maintained reserves. Perhaps more information needs to be disseminated to residents on the roles and responsibilities to help protect native wildlife. Also a clear and actionable reporting mechanism for residents who observe breaches.
20.	Address not provided	I write regarding my serious concern for the lack of management regarding cat ownership in the Shire of Mundaring. Cat owners are not under the same ByLaws as dog owners. This leads to cats prowling 24/7 and allow for a devastating impact on wildlife.

		<p>One of my neighbours, who owns a cat, has explained to me he feels it is "his cat's right to wander off his property whenever it likes". I saw his cat on my property eyeing off my frog pond.</p> <p>I hear local cat owners bemoan the nature of their cat that keeps bringing dead lizards and birds to their front door. This is a dreadful situation and needs immediate action. It is time to move cat ownership in the Shire of Mundaring in to the same responsibility as dog owners.</p> <p>I simply do not understand why cats are allowed to roam through bushland in this Shire?</p> <p>Cats still have a good quality of life in a cat enclosure and they are safer in an enclosure as it keeps them off the roads and away from other animals that can attack them. The RSPCA claims "cats can benefit the outdoors in a safe way" when confined to a cat enclosure.</p> <p>It is time for the Shire of Mundaring to take control of feline ownership in the region. It is obviously not enough to suggest to cat owners that they <i>should</i> keep their cats in after 6pm. "Should" is not taken seriously. It is not Local Law.</p> <p>We are fortunate to claim the State Forest as our backyard, surely we can move in an intelligent direction towards improved cat ownership by bringing it in line with dog ownership. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my thoughts.</p>
21.	Hedges Road Hovea	<p>There are some key absences in the Strategy including definitions of what Biodiversity is and why its conservation is important beyond being regarded as what many residents wanted according to page 4 of the Strategy. Conservation is more than a populist matter and a little more should have been said about that and other key concepts that are essential elements of sustainability including such things as Triple Bottom Line Accounting and Adaptive Management, among others. Without that sort of clarity how can the reader assess internal and over-all consistency and workability of actions and principles guiding what the Shire and the rest of us do on ground?</p> <p>From my stand point I regard our local biodiversity as a library of living information where conservation is a core part of what sustainable social justice workers, economists landcarers do. Biodiversity is the most essential cornerstone (as part of who we are), or core business of sustainable economic and social justice that are the other two cornerstones of triple bottom line accounting. As conservationists we do not just look after ourselves, but in our own interests we (economic, social justice and conservationists) are all bound to also look after all the biodiversity in our care and that we are part of.</p> <p>One key implication of my definition of what conservation is, is that sustainable economics and sustainable social justice can only continue sustainably if the environment is a core part of how we make economic and social justice decisions on individual cases or policy and implementation levels. Environment and conservation never were, never are and never will be mere externalities to be shifted by economic and social justice practitioners onto the shoulders of conservationists (paid or otherwise).</p> <p>The unsustainable, pretence that we could just look after money and people, with conservation as a hobby, has seen us (humanity, including Australians) bring the current climate and Biodiversity crisis and economic and social dysfunction onto</p>

	<p>our heads. Just think of what we were told, in the course of a Perth ABC news bulletin, by Labor's economics minister Jim Chalmers on the 13 Jan 2023 that :-</p> <p>“.....70% of Australians are currently living in disaster areas...”</p> <p>It was ironic that around the same time we heard that Australians were advised that we should get ready to accommodate ourselves for a population in Australia of 35 million by 2030, and in Western Australia our people should get ready to accommodate 3.5 million. Which non-disaster part of Australia they might be sustainably absorbed into was not mentioned or discussed. It is obvious that sustainability of any kind was not a core consideration for this economics minister at the federal level or whichever minister at the State of WA level when they mentioned the figures for people in WA or Australia as whole.</p> <p>The relevance of the above introduction to my submission is that whatever aspirations we have in the context of the 'Local Biodiversity Strategy 2022' (for Mundaring) we will be pitted against the higher levels (State and Federal) of Governance that will tend to regard the Perth Hills, including Mundaring, as little more than close to vacant land that should be filled with as many people as possible with little genuine regard for sustainability. So there will be endless repetitions of the same battles to retain smaller and smaller vestiges of remnant bushland conservation in the Perth Hills in the face of higher housing demands in our bush land areas of local franchises of the library of living information that is a part of who we are. I expect that we will continue to see the thunderous silence on the implications of increasing pressure of the people who argue merits of unsustainable and unlimited growth in numbers of members of 'homo urbanicus' who just want somewhere to live that is better than where they have come from.</p> <p>Until biodiversity and the area it resides on is given the status of a legal entity where conservation is seen and protected in law as an essential service provider and legitimate land use, and not just a hobby, there will be an endless erosion of the amount of nature built environmental infrastructure and the services it provides to our people and the shallow,unsustainable economics we live in.</p> <p>Recommendation 1: Work together with WALGA and others to make the case for conservation as a legitimate land use in law and the protection of biodiversity and the area it resides on as a legal entity. If this or something similar is not done conservation and biodiversity will continue to be seen as and treated as a hobby.</p> <p>Page 3 We were encouraged in second last paragraph of p3 of the Foreword from the Shire President (Cr James Martin) to produce:-</p> <p>“....suggestions for practical support for conservation on private land, and which issues or actions think should be the highest priorities over the next five years.”</p> <p>In reference to the “...suggestions for practical support for conservation on private land...” I found the implication was that the Shire was looking for tricks and tips for private land holders to be better 'empowered' to take on more charity work in environmental stewardship on their property for the benefit of the greater community in Mundaring and beyond. Buried in that idea of doing-the-right-thing is providing a service for free for the greater community in doing the work of sustainable environmental stewardship for nothing (or for fun) like doing a hobby.</p>
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	<p>The scale of environmental recovery needed of private and non-private landholders at a local and national level is a major enterprise that needs to be made visible in the economics of the Shire and the service of environmental stewardship it provides to the Greater Perth Metropolitan Region it is a part of. A small example of what I would suggest here is that private landholders with significant areas of bushland be given a rates break for the bushland being managed sustainably on their property. When suggestions like this have been put in front of the people in charge of the purse strings from the Shire there has been a strong retort along the lines of "That is simply unaffordable."</p> <p>I would agree if sustainable environmental stewardship within the Shire for the benefit of the Perth Metro Region was indeed merely a personal hobby for personal benefit. In fact it is hard, often unpaid work that takes time, thought, skill and persistence over time to do. We would not expect the accountants, engineers, lawyers, planners and others to do their work invisibly, as in for no financial recompense. There is conflicting messages and values implicit in simply dismissing any case for financial recompense for the work of maintaining and restoring our private conservation estate (for public good) sustainably to a sustainable condition. That reflects a lack of imagination in the people holding the purse strings to see that it is unfair to promote the real work needed to do sustainable landcare for the benefits of others as somehow undeserving of real financial recompense. It is also promoting the insidious idea that private landcare benefits to others will not be paid for from the greater Perth community beneficiaries of those services.</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Make the case, through WALGA for instance, for developing the business case for Shire of Mundaring and other Shires and their residents for recompense for the work they do in the greater Perth Metro Region. Whether this is through some sort of environmental levy or other mechanism needs to be worked out. The status quo of zero fee for service for sustained private and Shire land environmental restoration and stewardship is simply unfair and devalues environmental care and restoration as legitimate work as part of the real economy.</p> <p>Page 4:the overall vision for the area as</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">'A Place for Sustainable Living'</p> <p>Page 5: 'Whether it is promoting nature based tourism or carefully managing bushfire risk to avoid catastrophic wildfires, the Shire's social and economic success is intrinsically linked to a well managed environment.</p> <p>This is a valuable position to take now in relation to the environment, but that three way interdependence between, people, economy and environment was always there but unfortunately social and financial considerations dominated any sustainable environmental considerations apart from utilitarian exploitation. I am puzzled that Triple bottom Line Accounting was not explicitly mentioned and defined as the framework for guiding decision making. As I understand it Triple Bottom Line Accounting has a three lens view of plans and proposals to verify that none of the three cornerstones assets of sustainability are degraded or reduced over time.</p> <p>The reason we are talking about sustainability now is that we have not done sustainability to the point now that all three (social, environment and economics) are compromised because we have degraded the environment as the most fundamental of the three cornerstones of any sustainability strategy.</p>
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	<p>Recommendation 3: The Local Biodiversity Strategy, when it is rewritten, needs to explicitly define key concepts that it is going to operate by. It also needs Key Performance Indicators baseline data to give measures of how the strategy is measuring against targets for sustainably managing and restoring the Biodiversity in our care. Without environmental stewardship data and changes in KPI's how can we tell if the fire mitigation and other strategies that are part of Biodiversity management are improving the stewardship or not. Two examples of KPI worth measuring are carbon sequestered and biodiversity status (species count and prevalence). So if we don't measure and report on such indicators how can we tell if we are doing a good job?</p> <p>Bottom of page 5 states: The Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee assisted in developing this vision for the Shire's new Local Biodiversity Strategy: Local natural areas that are protected, connected and cared for through community stewardship and a strong culture of conservation.</p> <p>I found that statement caused me concern because it failed the Triple Bottom Line Accounting paradigm in which all three cornerstones are mentioned explicitly. It failed to include an explicit reference to the money/economic commitment needed alongside '...community stewardship and a strong culture of conservation.'. There needs to be an explicit statement that the money people side of the equation is willing to join in to redress the environmental deficits incurred by preoccupations with people wants and the economic interests wants. Sustainable environment stewardship is not an option, it is at the very core of everything that matters.</p> <p>Until the money/economics people declare, or have the default position, that they consider and practice sustainable environmental stewardship as a core element of the work they do, their current default position has been to regard environment as an externality to their accounts. The economic interests have been inclined to say to social and environmental interests:- "We can't afford this sustainability stuff". With the biodiversity losses and climate damage from tunnel-visioned economic prioritising we must be able to say we can not afford to not do this sustainable stewardship stuff because economic tunnel vision is now costing us money, social coherence and the Earth.</p> <p>Recommendation 4: Make Triple Bottom Line accounting an explicit and well defined method of how work is done within the Shire. Without such an accounting system the default position that Nature Built Environmental Infrastructure can be dismantled without regard to or even trying to financially quantify services lost in land clearance including environmental offsets for human built infrastructure.</p> <p>Last sentence page 5: A deeper sense of custodianship of land and water will be required as well as a willingness by all stakeholders to communicate, collaborate and continuously improve land management practices.</p> <p>Recommendation 5: It would have been useful to say that Adaptive Management will be a core part of how everything gets done in relation to sustainable environmental stewardship in the Shire. Thus as better, more current and detailed information and practices are developed for best practices in environmental management and restoration, then old management plans and practices are updated and implemented in an Adapted Management Plan that has provision for such updating.</p>
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	<p>Page 8 under Traditional Owners I am reassured that there was reference to cool mosaic burns by the traditional owners that carefully shaped the forest structure of our Southwest. It makes a contrast to what was stated, on page 24, as concerns by community raised about the approach and method of burning regimes across State agencies. As pointed out in Appendix 5 there is a need for variety of burn times and intensities to have regard for different plant and animal species survival and recovery from fire as a sustainable bushland management tool.</p> <p>Page 9 Bottom last sentence. As climate change intensifies and the threat of bushfire increases the Shire must continue to reconcile necessary bushfire risk mitigation with Biodiversity conservation. The actions that I have seen in Asset Protection Zones on two properties on the southern border to 360 Hedges Rd, where I live, amount to little more than land clearance with easily in the order of 85% of tree canopy removed. The due south neighbour did their APZ tree removal in the last few years, presumably to fit in with the State standard for APZ protection. This is in contrast to my Eastern neighbours who had a different set of advisers and kept a larger percentage of their Asset Protection Zone trees, more in Line with the report from the Authors of Appendix 5.</p> <p>Recommendation 6: Make sure that Best Practice in fire mitigation as reported on in Appendix 5 is pursued as the current Adaptive Management protocol for development application approvals. It has a scientific basis versus 85% tree canopy removal in the APZ that is part of the State of WA planning guidelines relevant to development in bushfire prone areas.</p> <p>Under Introduction pages 10, 11 aerial photos from 1961 and 2020 I am intrigued at the two sets of photographs of those pages that show the increasing tree canopy of much of the two sites that were photographed over a 59 year time interval at the same time as the number of house holds and residents increased. It would also have been instructive to make a comparison of the hardfacing (roads, roofs, driveways etc) increase over that time interval to see how increasing tree cover may have seen less rain water residing on, and infiltrating in to the ground to help nourish that increased canopy. Hardfacing is often associated with runoff pulses where much of the rainwater is simply disposed of to nearest stormwater disposal sites including creeks and drains. In the order of 85% to 90% of the Swan Coastal wetlands has been lost or severely degraded.</p> <p>Recommendation 7: Include reference when talking about those sets of photographs on pages 10 and 11 of the Draft Strategy that while apparent tree canopy coverage over time has increased that does not equal increased water infiltration into the ground water aquifer system or into associated wetland systems. The simplistic tree canopy coverage comment does not do adequate justice to the complexity of the way that the Swan Coastal System has been modified and degraded by increasing urbanisation over the past 50 to 60 years and beyond.</p> <p>P13 of Introduction Strategic Community Plan I believe that under that Plan a more appropriate term for the 'Natural Environment' is Nature built Infrastructure. That wording puts nature as a builder on par with "man" as simply another entity that can build. Thus when humans propose to</p>
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	<p>build their bit of infrastructure by dismantling the nature built infrastructure (natures houses, habitats and work places) we are clearer about the implications of our bit of human built infrastructure. It might even lead to us to following the lead of Singapore where there is such strong planning protection and respect for green spaces (for decades) in urban areas that it is normal to have vegetation growing on roofs and walls of human built infrastructure.</p> <p>Recommendation 8: Replace the term Natural Environment with Nature Built Infrastructure (or equivalent term) to emphasise its built nature as having at least as much legitimacy to exist as human built infrastructure.</p> <p>P14 Page 14 of Introduction</p> <p>1.1 Biodiversity and water course integrity should be maintained and mitigation measures will be considered where the works can not be designed or constructed to avoid impacts. Does mitigation mean “Bushfire mitigation” in the context of biodiversity and water course integrity management? I believe some sort of KPI or other measure is needed to determine how well we are doing the Biodiversity and water course integrity maintenance work over time. One key KPI could be net carbon capture or loss from bush areas and water courses being managed. Carbon capture is a potentially important measure because of its extreme relevance as a driver in climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Recommendation 9: Clarify the term 'mitigation' in the context of 1.1 Page 14 of the draft Strategy</p> <p>The guiding principle 1.4 Human Induced climate change is recognised as a key threat to Biodiversity, requiring mitigation action to reduce carbon emissions at all levels of government, and adaptation to local impacts.</p> <p>This guiding principle glosses over the very important fact that it is not merely humans that are the problem here. There is fundamental dysfunctional paradigm of unlimited growth in humanity and consumption that many leaders in business and politics (including many local governments) are living and advising by. In a living world with clear and present limits the extent of the dysfunctional unlimited growth paradigm is now being reflected in the human driven climate change, human driven biodiversity destruction and climate change increased incidence of 'Natural Disasters' such as extreme weather events and wilder and more extended wildfire seasons.</p> <p>How can we indeed talk of sustainability in the laudable human endeavour of leading sustainable lives when the sacred cow of unlimited growth as a deeply flawed human construct is not more often clearly articulated as a monstrous scam with no basis in any reality based in science?</p> <p>It, unlimited growth, really is about as clever as singing the praises of cancer as it destroys its host. Surely a genuine commitment to sustainable living can come up with something to supercede the laughable, if it wasn't so serious, human fantasy of unlimited, or the oxymoron of sustainable, growth.</p> <p>Recommendation 10: Replace “Human induced climate change...” of 1.4 on Page 14 with “Human growth and consumption growth induced climate change...” More precision is needed to help focus minds of key decision makers on where the greatest danger to sustainable living is coming from.</p>
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	<p>Page 15 Consolidating Environmental Strategies On looking at the various plans on page 15 I could not find what I used to know of as 'The Urban Drainage Strategy'. I believe it was designed for new developments to manage water on-site and not add to runoff. Where has the aspiration of sustainable urban water management been absorbed into?</p> <p>Recommendation 11: Re-instate an urban drainage strategy, or equivalent, as part of the Strategy or make a clear reference to it or its successor so that the reader knows that sustainable urban drainage is a valued part of sustainable development in the urban and peri-urban areas within the Shire.</p> <p>Page 16 Additional staffing resources I believe since carbon (excess in the environment) is now so important in sustainability considerations some officer time is needed to do qualitative and quantitative analysis of how our carbon storage assets/capital are being built or dismantled. So when there is talk of APZ canopy clearance of 85% what does that mean in terms of tonnage of carbon released versus the tonnage released from the more considered approach taken by the Authors of Appendix 5? If that sort of thing is not done in house, what are the options to get others to do that so we have a real idea of how we are doing on our contribution to managing our contribution to the climate crisis?</p> <p>Recommendation 12: Make Environmental KPIs part of what Environmental Staff as a whole gets done either in house or via externally funded expertise as appropriate. Without a commitment to some EKPIs there'll simply be a higher likelihood of action without evaluation to verify on ground stewardship effectiveness.</p> <p>Page 17 - Reference is made in the first paragraph on opportunities to participate in environmental offsets, carbon sequestration and biodiversity certification initiatives of the State and Commonwealth Governments.</p> <p>Recommendation 12: Please define 'biodiversity certification initiatives'.</p> <p>Environmental offsets concept rests on the assumption that functioning parts of our diminished nature built infrastructure can be degraded/fragmented/obliterated for human built infrastructure if we are promised another equivalent parcel of land (Nature Built Infrastructure, NBI). The net result is reduced overall high functioned nature built infrastructure. In practice the destroyed or damaged NBI land, on which humans build their stuff, is partnered with a degraded offset that typically needs significant rehabilitation and on-going management to bring it to the equivalent condition of the disrupted parcel of NBI land.</p> <p>Environmental offsets simply are another manifestation of the idea that what people want they are entitled to get and the environment (and the rest of us) will pay in environmental degradation and other problems such as climate change.</p> <p>Recommendation 13: Explain how environmental offsets works so that net overall environmental capital is constant or improved over time in a sustainable way. What basis is there in reality that a proponent can arbitrarily link parcels of land (Nature Built Infrastructure) to one another with one lot being degraded/sacrificed so the other can be kept and/or restored? It looks very much like a scam where human built infrastructure has supremacy over Nature Built Infrastructure.</p>
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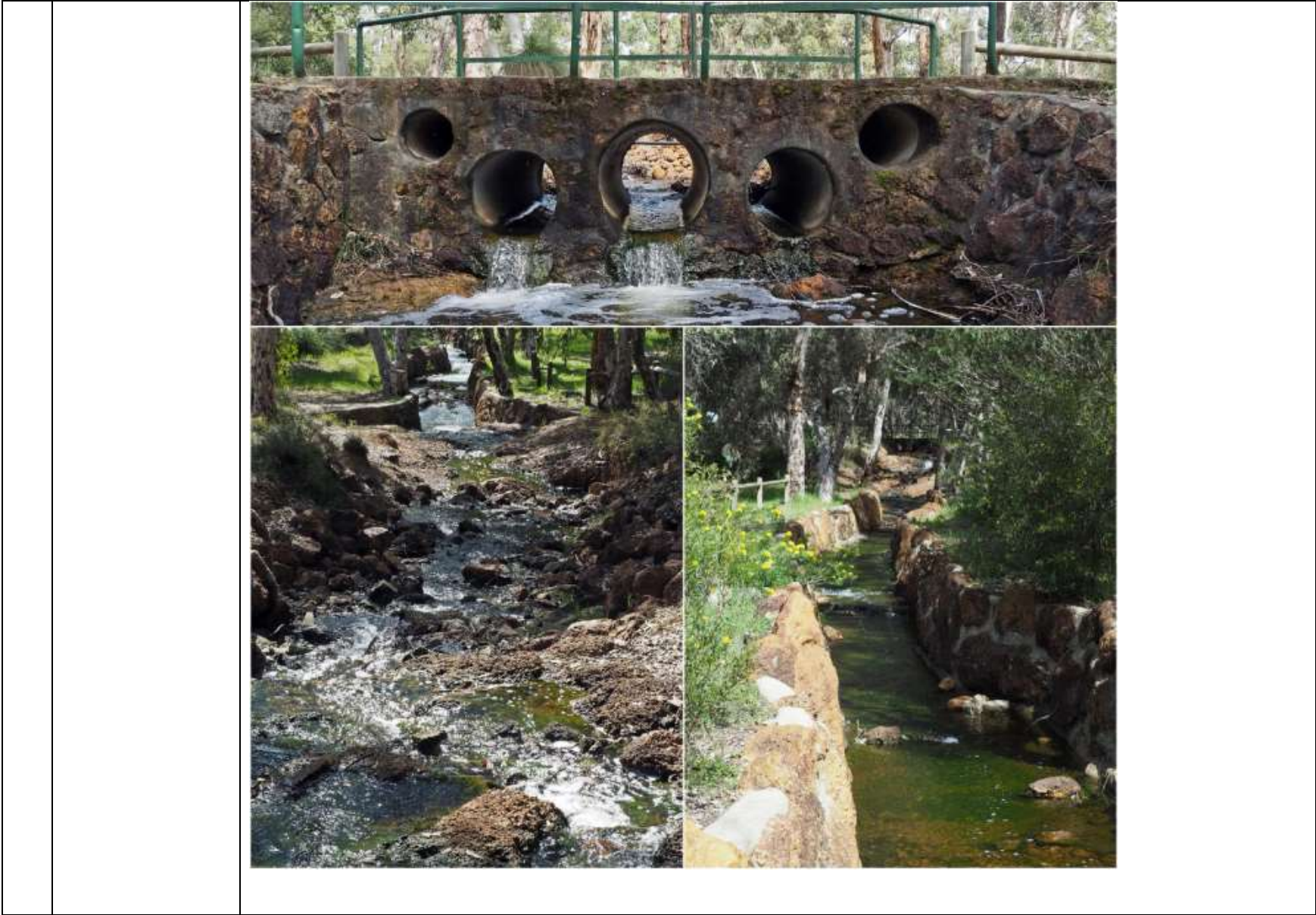
	<p>On page 20 Referring to the Pie Chart of page 20 it is good to see that DFES annual Bushfire Mitigation Funding is 15% of the Shire's Nature Reserves Management funds, where there is an emphasis on weed control as part of integrated fire mitigation. Thus three boxes are ticked in terms of fire risk mitigation AND weed management AND biodiversity can benefit if weeds are managed as well as well thought out mosaic burn implemented post weed control.</p> <p>I have seen an extremely disappointing example of poorly DFES oversighted fire mitigation on the BaptistCare Graceford Cottages on the eastern margin of Brickwood Reserve in Byford in the first half of Dec 2021. The forest mulching machinery used on that Threatened Ecological Infrastructure to make it look to the uninformed like something was being done to look after the residents. After the hue and cry raised about the damage done BaptistCare did commit to do weed control as an essential element of sustainable bushland management on the forest mulched piece of land, but I do not expect that approx 1Ha parcel of bushland of bushland to recover its integrity or structure in my lifetime.</p> <p>Recommendation 14: I commend and recommend that the Shire of Mundaring continues best practice in integrated fire mitigation, targetting ongoing weed control, in contrast to the random land manglement delivered on to the Brickwood Reserve in Byford in the Shire of Serpentine/Jarrahdale.</p> <p>Page 24 Bottom paragraph Left Hand Side: reference is made to a '... wide variety of land managers,</p> <p>Also reference was made to '... community concerns ... about the approach and method of burning regimes across State agencies.</p> <p>Last Paragraph p24 reference is made to '...South West Native Title Settlement that will introduce new stakeholders to manage currently unmanaged Crown land in the Shire eg for ecological restoration and bushfire, as well as ...'</p> <p>I would hope that as the new stakeholders re-establish more traditional burn regimes, in conjunction with science that incorporates the need to modify those practices in view of the changed climate, that State agencies will evolve/revolutionise their more industrial scale regimes to reflect the sustainable best hybrid of tradition and science. As an essential element of that adaptive management hybrid approach it is essential the finer mosaic burns are done to make them more escapable and survivable by our remnant native fauna inheritance. I hope that such skill sharing proceeds as soon as is practicable.</p> <p>Recommendation 15: The Shire is strongly recommended to foster and build partnerships with the Native Title Settlement stakeholders to share and build on traditional burn practices and science with the best of western science relating to burn practices as part of Sustainable Adaptive Management in relation to fire in natural areas.</p> <p>Page 28,29 Challenges Ahead It was extremely important that it was said in the third paragraph of p28 that: 'An area of particular importance will be emerging science for bushfire mitigation risk mitigation and local species responses to fire.... The Shire will continue to monitor research in this area and test and challenge State requirements that</p>
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		<p>are not necessarily aligned with our particular vegetation complexes. The discussion paper of Appendix 5 is a clear challenge to to the State level dogma on the need for removal of 85% of tree canopy in the Asset Protection Zone. For biodiversity protection and effective fire mitigation it is vital that the Shire made the point that CSIRO fire research showed the 85% clearance of APZ in accordance with State guidance on mitigation was verifiably excessive. The Shire stance in demanding that the mitigation industry do mitigation based on science is a welcome part of sustainable and integrated fire mitigation and conservation. Without that sort of oversight the fire mitigation industry would just be another agent in Anthropomorphic driven land clearance and climate change.</p> <p>Recommendation 16: The Shire is strongly recommended to fostering best practice in sustainable Fire Mitigation as reflected in the studies quoted on Pages 28,29 and Appendix 5 of the draft Strategy.</p> <p>Page 32 Climate Change This chapter needs sharpening up with clear acknowledgement that Climate Change is merely a symptom of the delusional and dysfunctional sustainable growth paradigm that simply doesn't work sustainably on the only living planet we know about. The inadequately accountable dominance of environmentally unaware, uncaring and insufficiently reflective habits of economic and other leaders have simply lulled us into unsustainable ideas, attitudes and practices that have compromised the carrying capacity of the Earth that is carrying us.</p> <p>Humans are not intrinsically toxic to nature, it is more that some of the unexamined and unreflected upon paradigms can lead us to self/ecosystem destructive results.</p> <p>Recommendation 17: The Strategy should state clearly somewhere on this page 32 under Climate Change that it (Climate Change) is merely a symptom of a misguided commitment/habit to the delusion of sustainable growth on a finite Earth. The pattern of exponential growth of humans as an organism that is experiencing negative feedback in the form of climate change, Biodiversity loss, wilder weather events, among other indicators is precisely analogous to organisms (yeast cells) fermenting grape juice into vinegar and dying out when the acetic acid kills them. I would hope that the wisdom in our communities allow us to consider the inconvenient truths of dealing with the consequences of our actions and in-actions to get us to sustainable ways of doing everything, whether at local government, State or Federal level.</p>
22.	Strettle Road Mahogany Creek	<p>COMMENT: I'm not good with words. Five images of one water body and two waterways within the Shire are attached.</p> <p>They are for Lake Leschenaultia itself, Lake Leschenaultia's spillway, and Naanya Creek. The images tell their stories. Please use as you see fit.</p> <p>I'd be happy to supply any one of the images which make up the triptychs</p>











23.	Windelya Road Murdoch	<p>Congratulations to the Shire of Mundaring on preparing this detailed biodiversity strategy. Mundaring is a particularly important area for biodiversity and has one of the highest levels of tree canopy cover in the metropolitan area. Biodiversity is important for environmental health and public health. A healthy society must be based on a healthy environment. The southwest of WA is one of only 35 global biodiversity hotspots and it is encouraging to see the Shire of Mundaring accepting its responsibility to protect and repair its natural heritage.</p> <p>I would suggest the following additional actions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enact a local tree preservation law to prevent landowners from destroying trees without Council approval. 2. Ensure that all developments have adequate setbacks from lakes, watercourses and native vegetation. 3. Prepare a register of important trees, ecological communities, wetlands and important habitats. 4. Enact a local law to protect wildlife corridors. 5. Direct the environmental committee to audit the progress of implementing this strategy on an annual basis and to report any issues requiring attention to the Council. 6. Maintain a comprehensive monitoring program directed at water quality, flora, fauna and ecosystems. 7. With our changing climate there will be a need to regularly review and update the strategy. <p>This strategy is just the start of the process of protecting and restoring the Shire's biodiversity. Please ensure that there is adequate monitoring, review and follow up to ensure it is successful.</p>
24.	Address not provided	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cat containment for domestic cats – important issue for preservation of wildlife. A 24 hour curfew for cats would benefit the environment immensely. Rebates for cat owners towards cat enclosures would ensure that cat owners are not substantially out of pocket. Many local governments are introducing these curfews. Savings may be made from Rangers impounding cats, etc. Public opinion is now moving towards acceptance of domestic cat containment. Some communities may be interested in doing (<i>see attached documents</i>) 2. Bush Skills for the Hills - EMRC program - was an excellent introduction about bushland, flora & fauna, creeklines, etc. that provided newcomers and others with very relevant information and gave them a sense of community and responsibility for their environment, albeit on public or their own land. Bringing back some intensive education programs for all ages to teach new land owners about our bushland, and to update and increase knowledge for local residents. Small scale learning programs that are conducted in various parts of the Shire and involve food and drink so that people can mingle and socialise as well. 3. People involved with property development within the Shire should be cognisant of not removing all vegetation when building. Rather there should be a consultation about regeneration, maintaining the majority of vegetation where possible. If all vegetation is to be removed then there should be a plan for how to best regenerate the land after building. Consultation should be made with neighbouring properties. 4. Stewardship of trees, bushland, waterways, reserves, fauna by Shire of Mundaring residents and ratepayers and businesses. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4a. A significant tree register for the Shire. Trees that are significant on public and private land should be recognised and a database kept. Legislation about removing trees of significance should ensure protection of these trees. Many local councils have registration of significant trees. (<i>see attached documents</i>)

		<p>4b. To be able to get reduced rates for getting tree assessments done by a professional arborist. Often neighbours will have concerns about the safety of trees near their properties and assurance provided by a qualified arborist providing a tree assessment will reassure people.</p> <p>4c. To get assistance and advice about flora on private property, including weed management, regeneration, creekline maintenance, etc. This seems to more prevalent for larger properties, but perhaps the Shire could provide advice to several small property owners in a neighbourhood.</p> <p>4d. Provision of free or reduced cost mulch for property owners by Shire and private tree loppers.</p> <p>5. More involvement of original custodians' invaluable knowledge of native species and fire management. Perhaps employing more Indigenous staff in this area.</p> <p>6. Vehicles going into bushland that prohibits access. There seems to be a lack of resources to monitor illegal access by cars, 4WDs and trail bikes in bushland. Perhaps a change to the management of overseeing this issue.</p> <p>7. Actions relating to Shire managed nature reserves (Table 1 – p62). Item 1.28 <i>“To better direct management effort and resources towards areas of greater conservation value, seek to identify smaller parks and reserves with low ecological and recreational values, to consider for rezoning or alternate land uses.”</i> This item is of concern as we live next to a reserve and would not wish to see it used for alternate land use or being rezoned. How can I find out more about this item?</p>
25.	Holbrook Road Glen Forrest	<p><i>If we truly desire a sustainable society, we require vibrant and abundant nature. To recognize that nature isn't separate from us and fully understand how it provides critical services, we need patience to learn its secrets. We can't survive, let alone be healthy and flourish, without clean air, clean water, clean soil and food, photosynthesis and biodiversity. But we're overwhelming nature</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>— and ourselves — with the incessant demands of our ramped-up consumer culture.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">David Suzuki²</p> <p>1 SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education is fundamental to a sustainable future. • Land clearing must stop – now. • The Local Biodiversity Strategy Draft (LBSD) focusses on vegetation with no data on fauna (native or introduced). Biodiversity includes animals. • Small burrowing marsupial populations must be restored by eradicating foxes and cats. This will result in the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Increased plant vigour and resilience, increased biodiversity and consequently improved ecosystem functioning.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A reduction of fuel loads and retention of soil carbon, thereby reducing the need for destructive controlled burns and the occurrence of wildfires. • All fences in the proposed wildlife corridors need to be documented, reviewed and modified if necessary. <p>No doubt, many will see some of the suggestions in this document as utopian dreams that are simply too hard. However, almost nothing is impossible given sufficient commitment, education and funding. Truly meaningful preservation and improvement of biodiversity will not come cheap but if we, as a wealthy nation, can afford to spend a minimum of 70 billion dollars on nuclear submarines,³ we have no excuses for our current biodiversity crisis.</p> <p>² https://davidsuzuki.org/story/lets-slow-down-for-the-sake-of-ourselves-and-our-planet/</p> <p>³ https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/dec/14/australias-aukus-nuclear-submarines-estimated-to-cost-at-least-70bn</p> <p>2 INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The following sections cover subject areas with which I have some familiarity. I am by no means an expert in any of the subject matter but do have a science background and understand the importance of hard data. Also, some of my comments are addressed in the actions section of the LBSD.</p> <p>As a species, we are responsible for the current global mass extinction, <i>“our technological power and consumptive demand are undermining the planet’s life-support systems”</i>². In future deep time (millions of years), the planet will recover and life will again flourish, but such time scales are beyond our existence and not relevant to the current crises. For decades, science has spoken of what is coming in the near future, but our self-serving “economy” and governments, at all levels, have knowingly ignored the warnings. The “economy”, our materialism and all governmental bodies are human creations that are irrelevant to the true processes that shape this planet. To believe otherwise is delusional.</p> <p>Our priorities as a species need to change drastically and rapidly if we are to survive. The time for all of us, including the Shire, to act with meaningful commitment to a greater good is now. There is support for serious change in the community but it needs decisive leadership and support. Head-in-the-sand proposals are no longer acceptable.</p> <p>It is clear from the LBSD that the single biggest impediment to a common sense, effective and science-based biodiversity policy is the bureaucratic miasma at local, state and federal government levels. Such human constructs are utterly inconsequential compared to the global- scale processes that have controlled the planet’s ecosystems for billions of years. We ignore these forces at our peril. Once we are gone, our remains will become just another layer in the rock record marking a mass extinction.</p> <p>From a human perspective, the most depressing fact is that for decades we have understood both the planetary processes and the consequences of our actions and inactions.⁴ But we seem to be incapable of changing our behaviour or truly understanding that, for the last 50 years, the time for real change has always been today.</p> <p>3 SCHOOL EDUCATION</p>
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	<p>Education is fundamental to a sustainable future.</p> <p>The following comments are not directly relevant to the LBSD because solutions are largely outside the Shire’s remit. Nevertheless, they are relevant to “<i>A deeper sense of custodianship of land and water...</i>” (LBSD, Page 5).</p> <p>My children have recently graduated from high school. Both attended schools in the hills that were surrounded by bush. At no time during their education were they educated about the plants, animals and ecosystems in which they lived. In addition, they were never introduced to or educated by tradition owners and had no opportunity to learn an indigenous language.</p> <p>If future generations are to have any sense of respect, responsibility and custodianship it is essential that an understanding of their surroundings and its true history be given as part of their school education. Learning an indigenous language and indigenous names would provide a connection and a sense of responsibility and pride. Ignorance and fear make it easier to rationalise disrespect and destruction.</p> <p>4 FAUNA, FLORA, BIODIVERSITY</p> <p>Throughout the LBSD there are references to remnant native vegetation, which appears to have been mapped and “classified” by interpretations of satellite imagery using GIS databases. Collecting such data is easy and office-based but it is only part of the story.</p> <p>The premise of the LBSD appears to be that preserving bushland equals preserving biodiversity. However, there are negligible data on fauna (other than humans).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are the maps showing wildlife distributions by species, both now and historically? • Where are the data showing wildlife strongholds and declines by species? • Where are the maps showing true wildlife corridors based on animal movements, as opposed to interpretations of polygons in a GIS system? • Do such data exist in the first place? <p>If these data do not exist they need to be acquired as a matter of urgency, because a meaningful biodiversity strategy cannot be developed without meaningful fauna information. This is a fatal flaw in the LBSD.</p> <p>As an example, Section 6 shows that, in the Glen Forrest area, quendas appear to be rare in an area of relatively untouched bushland. However, they are common in parts of Glen Forrest with higher density housing. In this example, bushland does not equal greater biodiversity with respect to quendas.</p> <p>The reason for this counterintuitive distribution is unknown but it is possible that areas of higher density housing provide quendas food and shelter and, more importantly, protection from foxes. There is evidence that foxes travel to and from Glen Forrest at night to hunt quendas, possibly due to their rarity in more remote bushland.</p>
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		<p>Camera traps that record ground-dwelling fauna are relatively cheap and easy to set up. But it takes time and commitment to accumulate meaningful results. Any meaningful survey would have to run for at least a year. The Shire should initiate a pilot camera trap survey in one area covering a full range of habitats, with cameras placed on known animal pathways. This would at least provide a starting point for more targeted biodiversity preservation. Such a survey would have the additional benefit of mapping out fox and cat movements, thereby allowing more targeted eradication (Sect. 6.7). It would also contribute to more meaningful environmental assessments of proposed land clearing by providing information that is not obtained during typical site assessments.</p> <p>5 LAND CLEARING</p> <p>Australia has one of the highest rates of extinction of any country in the world. Animals and plants have to be on the brink of extinction before their presence can stop a development. Foremost in the causes of extinction is the dissection of once extensive habitats by human activities including land clearing, housing developments and fencing. To quote a recent ABC article, <i>“If we want to give our wilderness some resilience to future natural disasters and avoid extinction of some of our most iconic species, our environmental protection laws need to be strengthened, not weakened . . . To achieve a no-net-loss we would have a lot more rejections of development applications in Australia, but regulators aren’t prepared to do that in this country”</i>.⁵</p> <p>Those of us who have lived in the hills for a while have witnessed the incremental degradation of the local environment. Foremost has been the continuing division and clearing of remnant bush blocks for housing. Apart from immediate clearing for houses, sheds, driveways, parking areas, swimming pools and firebreaks, any remnant bush almost invariably degrades following the introduction of weeds and diseases, mowing, brush-cutting and excess burning of the understory.</p> <p>Many residents feel powerless to stop this destruction and it takes a lot of time and energy to achieve outcomes that are blindingly obvious to anyone who understands the true value of remnant bushland. Wholesale land clearing and understory clearing in the Shire has to stop now and there should be no more development or land clearing approvals on remnant bush lots – irrespective of ownership. Controversial, certainly, but not if you take extinction seriously.</p> <p>Vested interests, particularly housing, have always held sway over the health of our environment, and arguments that development and bushland can co-exist are demonstrably self-serving nonsense. If the Shire is serious about the intent of the LBSD, it will have to stand up to vested interests and make some controversial decisions. Otherwise the ‘strategy’ will become yet another toothless feel-good document.</p> <p>For existing developments on bush blocks, residents should be encouraged to retain the understory and be educated about its value. As a start, all residents could be sent information about their environmental responsibilities, environmental values and “what they can do” in their annual rates pack.</p>
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		<p>5.1 Land Clearing and Domestic Fires</p> <p>While not directly related to biodiversity, the continued use of domestic wood fires results in a demand for wood, which is commonly sourced illegally from bushland. A simple solution to illegal wood collection would be to end demand by discouraging and phasing out wood-burning fires. This would have the added benefit of improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions.</p> <p>Air quality in the Shire is beyond the scope of this submission but is a major problem, particularly if you live in a valley. Wood smoke is toxic and needs to be taken seriously.⁶ I have monitored air quality in the Glen Forrest area since April 2022 and commonly it is in the poor to hazardous range (Australian Air Quality Index). Domestic wood fires and garden leaf burning are major contributors in winter.</p> <p>6 FERAL ANIMALS</p> <p>This section provides hard data on the abundance of feral animals in one part of Glen Forrest. While only one study, it is probably indicative of most of the Shire. In summary, the study paints a bleak picture of a forest dominated by introduced predators (foxes and cats⁷) and an almost complete absence of small native marsupials.</p> <p>Privately-owned camera traps, located south of Glen Forrest, have been in operation on or near a reserve since 5 February 2020 and one (Camera 1) has been in operation continuously⁸ at one location on an animal pathway. Camera 1 is set to take 3 images, about 1 second apart, each time it is tripped. The three sequential images are referred to as a single Photo Record, even though fauna are commonly recorded in all three images. Since 11 September 2021 a second camera (Camera 2), recording 30 second video clips, has been in operation next to Camera 1. Comments herein are based on 1068 days of continuous data from 5 February 2020 to 7 January 2023. The following sections are a summary of these records. Additional information, such as animal travel directions, fox appearance frequencies, fox social behaviour and records of other animals are not included herein because they are not relevant to this document.</p> <p>6.1 Native Mammals vs Introduced Mammals (Ferals)</p> <p>Figure 1 is based on 1803 Photo Records. It shows that 43.5% of the Photo Records are of feral animals. They comprise 71.6% foxes, 24.0% cats and 4.5% rabbits (Fig. 2). The only good news is that rabbits have not been recorded since September 2020.</p> <p>⁶ E.g., https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00204-016-1659-1</p> <p>⁷ No distinction is made, or should be made, between free-roaming domestic cats and feral cats because they are both active hunters.</p> <p>⁸ 3 days data were lost due to battery failure after water ingress in July 2021.</p>
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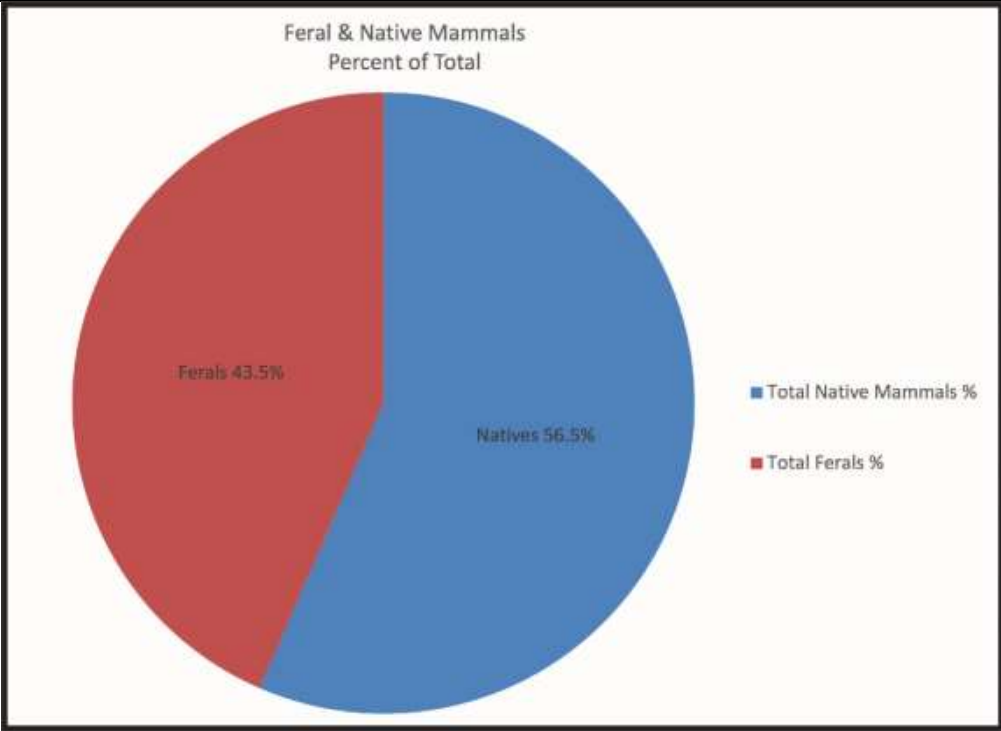


Figure 1: Summary of all Photo Records from Location 1. Split by native and non-native mammals (n = 1803). Results of 1068 days of continuous monitoring in relatively undisturbed bush.

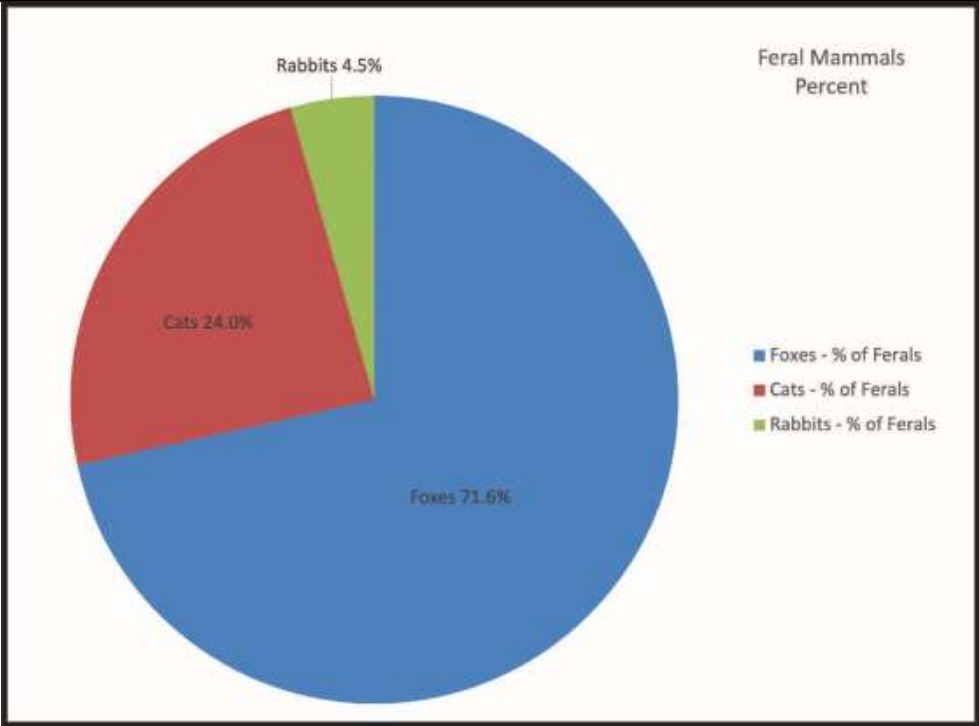


Figure 2: Summary of Photo Records of feral mammals from Location 1. Split by species (n = 784). Results of 1068 days of continuous monitoring in relatively undisturbed bush.

6.2 Native Mammals

Photo Records of native mammals are dominated by western grey kangaroos (95.7%), with rare brush-tailed possums (2.5%), chuditch (0.7%) and quendas (0.3%; Fig. 3). The almost complete absence of quendas in relatively undisturbed forest contrasts with common sightings of quendas in more built up areas of Glen Forrest. In summary, the reserve appears to be a small-marsupial- wasteland, in keeping with much of the rest of the remnant jarrah forest in the Shire.

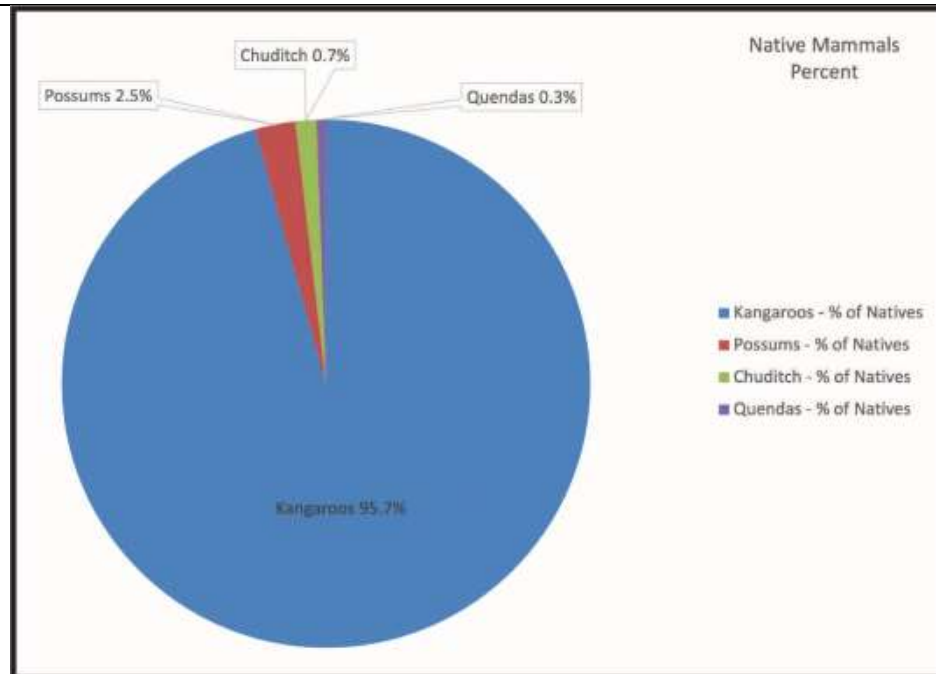


Figure 3: Summary of Photo Records of native mammals from Location 1. Split by species (n = 1019). Results of 1068 days of continuous monitoring in relatively undisturbed bush.

6.3 Foxes

On Page 40 of the LBSD there is a comment that “*information on the fox population within the Perth Hills is very limited...*”. But a cursory search of the Atlas of Living Australia shows that the Perth Hills is awash with foxes (search for *Vulpes vulpes*).

The Glen Forrest study shows that, by Photo Records, foxes are the dominant feral animal comprising 31.1% of the total. In addition, photos of foxes carrying prey show that they predate chickens (n = 12), quendas (n = 10; Fig. 4), possums (?; n = 1), joeys (?; n = 1) and rabbits (n = 1). These data suggest a relationship between the abundance of foxes and an absence of small marsupials.



Figure 4: Night-time camera trap image of a fox scenting while carrying a dead quenda.

6.4 Cats

There are 188 Photo Records of cats in the recording period comprising 10.4% of the total Photo Records.

6.5 Rabbits

Rabbits comprise only 35 sightings (1.9% of the total) and their disappearance after September 2020 could be related to the release of the calicivirus and/or fox predation. An unintended consequence of rabbit reduction may be increased small marsupial predation by foxes.

6.6 Consequences of No Feral Animal Control

	<p>It is estimated that foxes and cats together kill 697 million reptiles annually in Australia, 510 million birds and 1435 million mammals.^{9,10} Foxes and cats are thought to be the primary cause of extinction of at least 20 animal species, and responsible for the ongoing declines of many others. Mundaring Shire is no exception to this level of predation and virtually nothing is being done to protect birds, reptiles and marsupials from these predators. Conserving habitats without concurrent eradication of feral predators will not stop the decline of once abundant small marsupials.</p> <p>Re-establishing significant and widespread burrowing marsupial populations, by eradicating foxes and cats, will have the following benefits.¹¹</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increased plant vigour and resilience, increased biodiversity and consequently improved ecosystem functioning. 2) A reduction of fuel loads and retention of soil carbon, thereby reducing the need for destructive controlled burns and the occurrence of wildfires. <p>There is, therefore, a critical link between eradication of foxes and cats and a reduction in fire risks that the Shire needs to take seriously. Particularly in a drying climate where burning is becoming even more problematic. Re-establishing a viably burrowing marsupial population will benefit both the forest ecosystems and the human residents. This can only be done by removing foxes and cats.</p> <p>6.7 Cat and Fox Controls</p> <p>Any distinction between feral and domestic cats must be removed in a serious biodiversity strategy. All cats in the bush are killers.</p> <p>While stating that the <i>“Control of domestic cats is the responsibility of cat owners”</i> may be true (LBSD, Page 39), it is a delusional statement from a conservation viewpoint. Many cat owners</p> <p>⁹ E.g., Counting the bodies: Estimating the numbers and spatial variation of Australian reptiles, birds and mammals killed by two invasive mesopredators. Stobo-Wilson <i>et al.</i>, 2022, Diversity and Distributions, 28:976–991.</p> <p>¹⁰ E.g., https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2022-03-16/cats-foxs-feral-pests-native-wildlife/100902790</p> <p>¹¹ E.g., Is the loss of Australian digging mammals contributing to a deterioration in ecosystem function? 2013, Mammal Review, The Mammal Society and John Wiley & Sons Ltd.</p> <p>are responsible and keep their cats indoors but others allow their cats to wander free-to-kill day and night without consequences. If the Shire is serious about conservation this has to change.</p> <p>Foxes are notoriously difficult to trap in cages and cage trap programs would likely be a waste of time, effort and money. In addition, “live” cage traps need to be monitored constantly because they commonly trap other animals including ravens, magpies and quendas which need to be released as soon as possible.</p> <p>The primary tool used by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is 1080 baiting (Western Shield Program). The program has led to substantial and sustained population increases of many native mammal species and</p>
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		<p>a broad range of other species including reptiles and ground nesting birds.¹²</p> <p>Baiting in the Shire would be controversial but is probably the only effective method of reducing foxes. Baiting could be undertaken at controlled sites that are not accessed by the general public (for example, private properties). It is not difficult to lure a fox to a feeding site and they will return if food is replaced regularly. Once a feeding pattern is established a bait could be introduced. The process would require continuous camera trap monitoring. Such baiting could be done on fenced private properties by responsible and proactive owners.</p> <p>7 WILDLIFE CORRIDORS</p> <p>Wildlife corridors linking remnant bushland is a laudable objective (LBSD, Pages 51–52) but Appendix 3 lacks detail on how the proposed wildlife corridors will be implemented and managed, particularly where they cross fenced private land.</p> <p>As an example, in Glen Forrest there is a Regional Ecological Linkage that is cut almost entirely by fences erected by private land owners. Access through this linkage (other than by roads) is limited to a 100 m wide strip of bush that was recently earmarked for development. Had the development taken place there would have been a continuous fence across the Linkage. Fortunately, this open strip of land has been preserved as an unfenced reserve following community objections, but keeping the full length of this wildlife corridor open still remains in the hands of private land owners who currently have chosen not to fence their lots.</p> <p>¹² https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/wildlife-and-ecosystems/western-shield/fox-and-feral-cat-baiting-locations</p> <p>Fences, particularly on a large scale, can have severe negative impacts on wildlife and flora. The State Barrier Fence is the longest example in Western Australia. When completed it will be a 1850 km long wildlife barrier designed to exclude wild dogs, kangaroos and emus from farming regions.¹³ It has been described by environmental groups as cruel, unscientific, uneconomic, targeting native wildlife and reducing ecological connectivity (“<i>A Barrier to Common Sense</i>”¹⁴).</p> <p>Comments are made as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The proposed wildlife corridors are likely crossed by private fences. All fences need to be documented on the ground because their presence could undermine the objectives of the corridor. 2) Where corridors are fenced on private property, owners need to be consulted and assisted to modify fencing to allow the passage of wildlife (mostly kangaroos). 3) Where corridors are on unfenced private property, there needs to be either an agreement with the owner to not fence or preferably an enforceable ban on fencing without suitable gaps. 4) Because animals will be encouraged to follow the proposed corridors, any existing fencing across a wildlife corridor that cannot be removed needs to be made wildlife friendly. Animals suffer appalling deaths on fences as illustrated in Figure 5. 5) The Shire should encourage residents to report dead or injured animals in fences. These data should be entered into
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a database that would highlight problematic areas and fences.

8 OTHER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

This section contains other comments and questions referenced by page or appendix.

- Page 12: *“The future of the North Parkerville and North Stoneville townsites is still somewhat unknown and ultimately rests with the State Government and/or the State Administrative Tribunal.”* While this may be true, the Shire needs to state its position because it is relevant to any proposed biodiversity strategy.
- Page 12: *“The Local Planning Strategy also introduced mapping and protection of Local Natural Areas based on the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009, which are still in effect (and effective).”* How is it effective?
- Page 14: There are either missing numbered points or the auto-numbering has gone wrong.

¹³ E.g., <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/state-barrier-fence-overview>

¹⁴ <http://birdsaustralia.com.au/documents/NEWS-wa-barrier-fence-technical-paper.pdf>



Figure 5: Remains of a red kangaroo joey that was entangled and died slowly and in agony in a ringlock fence. The ground disturbance shows where it struggled to free itself. Location is not in the Mundaring Shire but this is a commonly used fence type within the Shire. There should be no fences across wildlife corridors.

- Page 14, Point 1.4: If the Shire truly accepts *“human induced climate change”* why does it not have a policy of installing electric charge stations – Shire-wide – to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles?
- Page 14, Point 1.4: Deliberately burning bushland results in large carbon emissions, this needs to be accounted for if the Shire is to *“reduce emissions”*.
- Page 55: A minor point. Any water source (particularly deeper bowls) for animals should have an escape route (bricks, log) otherwise smaller animals will drown.
- Page 55: Marking trees with nest boxes may attract the wrong sort of attention. Better that they be GPS-located.
- Appendix 1: This needs a plain English summary. Most of this appendix would make Sir Humphrey Appleby proud.
- Appendix 2, Page 79, Paragraph 2: *‘As noted in the Local Biodiversity Strategy 2009, “Biodiversity strategies*

		<p><i>are not statutory documents, and need to be incorporated into the Local Planning Strategy and reflected in the Town Planning Scheme to have a bearing on Local and State Government decisions. This is critical as many of the decisions that impact on biodiversity and natural areas are linked to land use planning and development.” ’. This could be interpreted to mean that any recommendations in this document are essentially another feel-good exercise? I.e., what’s the point?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 2, Page 85: Needs a map of the vegetation complexes to make any sense. • Appendix 3: The proposed wildlife corridors would be a lot easier to see if they were outlined in red with no coloured infill. • Appendix 3: The proposed wildlife corridors would be a lot easier to interpret if they included contours or were draped over a DEM model. • Appendix 3: The proposed wildlife corridors should also be shown over satellite imagery so as to give a more real-world overview. • Appendix 3: How will the proposed wildlife corridors be protected on private land? <p>9 CONCLUDING COMMENT</p> <p>There is a persistent caveat in the LBSD that bushfire mitigation will always trump conservation. While there has to be a “balance”, preventative burning and land clearing will usually win out because it is underpinned by personal fear and fear of property loss. Irrespective, burning practices have to change towards more traditional methods if we are to maintain and hopefully increase biodiversity. The key is education and respect for traditional knowledge.</p>
26.	Lakeside Drive Helena Valley	<p>After doing some research into fire risks in our area and from personal experience of having lived in the shire for over 20 years, I'm actually curious why your Local Biodiversity Strategy 2022 has no mention regarding what FESA states is the leading cause of bush fires and that's arson, or human intervention such as cigarette butts being thrown out of car windows etc.</p> <p>In my time in the shire, I've had personal experience with watching a person throw a cigarette butt out of the car window where it quickly rolled into verge side scrub and in the time it took for me to stop my car and pull out a large bottle of water I usually carry, half the paddock had already caught fire.</p> <p>Fires on Roe Highway near the Helena Valley Road overpass again were caused by a cigarette butt. Another example is the spate of Darlington fires in approx 2005 or 2006. Deliberately lit by a volunteer fire fighter.</p> <p>What is the Shire going to do about educating people about the fire risks of cigarette butts out of windows, not to mention the harm they do to wildlife? What about education regarding how report and what sort of suspicious behaviour to look for when people light fires deliberately?</p> <p>https://www.aic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-07/tbp027_05_wa.pdf My other concern about this document is that while it sounds great, from experience within the shire, the actions mentioned in the document are not what happens within the shire.</p>

		<p>For years I have asked the shire for slow down, animal crossing signs on Lakeside Drive Helena Valley. Ducks, water hens and other animals such as long neck tortoises regularly cross the road from Bros park to lay eggs in yards surrounding the park. Animals are run over regularly by the lack of traffic control and signage. There are no signs at the park to discourage people from feeding the ducks bread. There are no signs telling people to keep their dogs on leashes. Plastic dog waste bags regularly blow off the bins provided and end up in the water for people like me to go remove.</p> <p>Having some information boards and actually beautifying Bros Park would be helpful. At the moment, most of the lakefront area is a large sand pit. Not at all appealing for visitors. The park is not watered enough. Our rates are expensive, we'd like our park looked after!</p>
27.	Mundaring Weir Road Mundaring	<p>As secretary of the Mundaring Residents & Ratepayers Progress Assoc (MRRPA), we thank the Shire for the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Does this LBS impact on the land controlled by the WA state Government and Water Corp?</p> <p>What happens to the "wildlife corridors" ending at the SoM's borders? Do they continue into adjoining Shires and Cities? Does the adjoining Shires and Cities have matching Local Biodiversity Strategy?</p> <p>Page 45 Friends Groups seems a bit over the top wrt each member must be registered, and not allowed to use a chain-saw. Perhaps a Certificate of Proficiency could be issued?</p>
28.	Walker St Mundaring	<p>Mundaring Shire's high level Draft Biodiversity Strategy, its stewardship and leadership in sustainability and environmental management in local government are commendable.</p> <p>I support all the Actions except for one, to be explained later.</p> <p>Above all our wonderful and remarkable bushland needs to better understood and valued.</p> <p><i>'We should never forget that the composition of the air and the temperature of the earth are maintained within the limits for human life by plants'</i> <i>Western Wildlife, Vol 11, No 4, page 14, 2007.</i> Department of Conservation and Land Management. See APPENDIX A 'What are ecosystem services?'</p> <p>The rich biodiverse natural assets within Shire of Mundaring provide essential ecosystem services vital to the liveability of the whole Perth region, where more than 80% of WA's population reside and work. Mundaring's forests and water catchments are proudly dubbed 'the lungs and kidneys of Perth'. I believe the community needs to be reminded often of the nature of this is interdependency - how environmental health and human health are inextricably bound together. This fundamental understanding has been embedded in the culture and spirituality of Indigenous Australians for many thousands of years.</p>

		<p><i>'The southwestern Australian flora is unique in the world, not only for its biodiversity and endemism, but also for its functional biodiversity. It also contains the world's most nutrient-impoverished soils, has a prolonged-summer period and the vegetation is extremely fire-prone. These conditions have engendered an array of survival adaptations that have evolved in these harsh conditions across a diverse range of species. It is well recognised that the southwest flora has the toughest and most spiny vegetation of the world, the greatest number of species that store their seeds in woody fruits, and the most specialised means of obtaining limited soil nutrients and water.'</i></p> <p>Reference: 'Plant Life of Southwestern Australia. Adaptations for Survival'. by Philip K Groom and Byron B Lamont . Publ !3 May 2015.</p> <p>Ultimately our natural 'green' infrastructure is more important than built infrastructure.</p> <p>It could be said that, just as farmers manage ecosystems, Mundaring Shire's sustainability and environmental management efforts also play a key role in sustaining and fulfilling human life in our region. Given this, Shire of Mundaring is well justified in seeking appropriate support and greater funding from State government to help meet future challenges.</p> <p>I strongly support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * alignment with United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021 – 2030) which aims to address the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity decline. * the Wildlife Corridor Network * The Shire contains significant areas of forested national parks and protected water catchments. This provides important habitat <u>and scarce refugia</u> for many native animals... *Improving knowledge of our native animal population, and scarce information about fungi (which play important roles in tree and forest health). This could be done in conjunction with DBCA. *importance of measured and appropriate bushfire preparedness for community safety as long as this is based on the best science and indigenous knowledge so that Biodiversity is protected. I agree that the form of residential and semi-rural subdivision that occurred in past decades would not be permitted under current Western Australian Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines. The two proposed new townsites North Parkerville and North Stoneville remain a great concern for the inevitable and irreparable harms they would cause. *The original Local Biodiversity Strategy having a significant focus on identifying local natural areas on private land and adding protection from clearing through the local planning framework, informed by vegetation complex. *Bushfire risk and implementing bushfire mitigation for community safety whilst protecting, conserving, and enhancing biodiversity was noted as one of the biggest challenges.
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	<p>*More well qualified staff as appropriate to better ensure implementation of any plan or strategy.</p> <p>* Agree Shire needs to continue to foster and nurture a strong volunteer network.</p> <p>* Greater attention is required for Drainage Reserves. Drainage reserves offer an important opportunity for the Shire to strategically intervene and better manage water resources in a drying climate.</p> <p>* “Support land transfers as recommended by State decision making processes.” ...provide significant opportunities for the Noongar community to achieve sustainable economic, social and cultural outcomes (SWALSC website)</p> <p>* Land clearing is a major contributor to loss of local microclimates, wider climate disruption and triggers hotter droughts. Reference: Prof Clive MacAlpine, University of Queensland. https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/10/071027180556.htm https://www.smh.com.au/national/land-clearing-blamed-for-climate-change-20071029-gdrge7.html The many listed exemptions to clearing need overhauling. The added contribution of urban housing developments to the Urban Heat Island Effect should not be overlooked.</p> <p>*Much needed action as a matter of urgency to strengthen Shire of Mundaring Keeping of Cats Local Law. This is too limited in scope under the outdated state Cat Act 2011. Like dogs, cats must be contained within the owner’s property. Destructive stray cats undo the hard work of volunteers, the thousands of hours we give over the years to restoring wildlife habitats. We constantly have domestic cats predated on wildlife in the nature reserve we have restored, as well as on our property.</p> <p>* Air pollution is a manifestation of climate change; it urgently needs to be addressed – our local government can easily access and utilise AQ monitoring done by RAC as a way or raising concerns with DWER or appropriate agency for investigation.</p> <p>* Managing Nature Reserves Objective: Improve management of nature reserves to address threatening processes and maintain habitat values. Increase volunteer participation.</p> <p>ACTIONS especially supported:</p> <p>* Protect our Natural Heritage 1.7 Advocate for state bushfire mitigation funding to be allocated based on risk, and specifically permitted to be used on weed control, which reduces ongoing fuel loads as well as supporting biodiversity outcomes. Steam weeding is preferable in buffer zones and along fringing areas.</p> <p>* 1.16 Develop a business case for recurring dieback treatment and mapping to maintain ecological values in priority reserves.</p> <p>*1.20 Develop a business case to employ additional staff (which may include a fire ecologist or similar) to map and monitor condition of nature reserves, develop and implement plans for priority reserves, and coordinate weed control efforts and conservation activities with bushfire mitigation actions - in consultation with landcare volunteers.</p>
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		<p>* 1.25 more could be done to encourage self cleaning of shoes and other hygiene measures to help prevent dieback.</p> <p>*NOT supported because of concerns it raises is this in the general text <i>'To better direct management effort and resources towards areas of greater conservation value, seek to identify smaller parks and reserves with low ecological and recreational values, to consider for rezoning or alternate land uses.'</i> More community consultation is necessary. Therefore Action 1.13 - <i>'Develop proposals for alternate land uses for reserves identified as having low ecological and recreational values, enabling resources to be redirected towards remaining reserves'</i> - should be removed until further clarification is provided.</p> <p>The idea of “rationalising” assets - ie Basically, sell off blocks seen as of no environmental value (rarely the case), to gain money for the Shire/City – is the concern as it undermines the whole concept of a reserve system. It takes no account of the valuable restoration work being done by volunteers on degraded reserves. The health of these degraded reserves could be restored, Discussion needed.</p> <p>Strongly supported:</p> <p>1.30 Monitor opportunities for research, partnerships and funding for climate adaptation planting initiatives based on projected mid-century climatic conditions, including targeted seed collection. Liaise with WA Herbarium, Biodiversity Institute UWA, WA Museum, Trillion Trees etc</p> <p>Actions strongly supported relating to private land and custodianship</p> <p>2.7 Increase capacity of Environmental Service to provide site visits and advice to residents about managing their local natural areas, restoration of watercourses and wildlife corridors, weed control, nest boxes and other habitat enhancement options.</p> <p>2.8 Maintain protection of local natural areas and seek opportunities for further integration of this Local Biodiversity Strategy and the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy into the Local Planning Scheme and Local Planning Strategy when these documents are reviewed.</p> <p>2.10 Advocate for improved funding and capability for the Land for Wildlife program hosted by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.</p> <p>2.11 Develop a local Land for Wildlife service to provide environmental site visits and advice, promote directly to residents who are custodians of mapped wildlife corridors, and prioritise requests based on conservation values and opportunities.</p> <p>Advocate for improved funding and capability for the Land for Wildlife program hosted by Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.</p> <p>2.19 Advocate to the State Government to amend the Cat Act 2011, enabling the Shire to amend its Local Law to restrict cats to a property and increase penalties.</p> <p>2.20 Investigate options and develop a service or program that supports control of feral animals on private land.</p>
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	<p>2.21, 2.22 and 2.23 Seek opportunities to exchange information and collaborate with traditional owners managing conservation lands as part of Noongar Land Estate.</p> <p>2,24 Consider amendment to Art Collection Policy (OR-09) to include and specifically encourage works that celebrate the natural landscape and native species found within the Shire.</p> <p>2.25 Seek partnerships and funding for murals and public art projects that incorporate local native species and landscapes. This will benefit tourism as well as local communities.</p> <p>2.27 Seek partnerships and funding to deliver a program that helps residents access seeds / seedlings of firewise native plants that are suited to residential gardens and provide important resources for native bees.</p> <p>2.28 Seek partnerships and funding to deliver a conference that brings together bushfire and biodiversity researchers and practitioners to inform future natural area management and bushfire mitigation practices.</p> <p>Seek partnership with Cockburn Wetland Education Centre re the vital role of our Mundaring water catchments watercourses in replenishing the aquifers, groundwater and wetlands on the Swan Coastal Plain.</p> <p>2.31 Produce watercourse restoration guidelines based on Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy recommendations and link to species available through the Seedlings for Landcare program.</p> <p>2.32 Collate and share information about soil health, national biodiversity certificates, carbon sequestration opportunities and natural asset farming with landholders of large properties</p> <p>2. 33 Seek partnerships and funding to investigate use of Miyawaki forest patches for carbon sequestration, biodiversity refuges and 'stepping stones' enabling wildlife movement in bushfire prone areas.</p> <p>2.34 Investigate options for establishing a community based Landcare Centre, modelled on successful organisations such as SERCUL, Landcare SJ, and Chittering Landcare Centre.</p> <p>2.35 Engage with all local schools to canvas use of environmental education support generally and initiate programs or projects to fill identified gaps.</p> <p>Reference: Plant Life of Southwestern Australia. Adaptations for Survival Adaptations for Survival By: Philip K. Groom, Byron B. Lamont</p> <p><i>The southwestern Australian flora is unique in the world, not only for its biodiversity and endemism, but also for its functional biodiversity. It also contains the world's most nutrient-impooverished soils, has a prolonged-summer period and the vegetation is extremely fire-prone. These conditions have engendered an array of survival</i></p>
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	<p><i>adaptations that have evolved in these harsh conditions across a diverse range of species. It is well recognised that the southwest flora has the toughest and most spiny vegetation of the world, the greatest number of species that store their seeds in woody fruits, and the most specialised means of obtaining limited soil nutrients and water.</i></p> <p><i>This book focuses on the survival mechanisms, adaptations and ecology of the unique Southwest Australian flora (restricted here to flowering plants). The book begins with an examination of how the flora has evolved into the present forms. It describes further in detail the adaptive responses of the flora to the main environmental pressures influencing survival - fire, summer drought, nutrient-impooverished soils, pollination and seed dispersal agents. Specialised responses to obtain essential nutrients are presented in three chapters - carnivorous plants, parasitic plants and specialised roots. An entire chapter is devoted to leaves, with an insight into how leaves may assist in protecting flowers and fruits from herbivores and seed-eaters. The book provides an ecological perspective on how the flora has evolved complex strategies to ensure species survival in the relatively harsh seasonal climate of a Mediterranean-type ecosystem.</i></p> <p>Footnote: History must not be allowed to repeat itself: Ancient Egypt and what is now the Sahara Desert were once well vegetated and used for intensive agriculture, but bad management unintentionally led to their desertification. Many civilisations, e.g. the Greek and Roman empires along the Mediterranean, followed the fate of ancient Egypt 'and left behind the ruins of great achievements and another legacy of desertification and land exhaustion'. This is particularly evident in the ruin of Ephesus in what is now Turkey. Ephesus before settlement had forests of oak, beech and spruce. 'In the end Ephesus was destroyed by its own success'...'The fatal mistake of Ephesus was the interruption of the water cycle and disruption of the microclimate. We do not want inappropriate planning and development to bring similar desertification to our region</p> <p><i>Copy of letter dated 8 May 2021:</i></p> <p>Amber-Jade Sanderson, Minister for the Environment 5th Floor, Dumas House 2 Havelock Street, WEST PERTH WA 6005</p> <p>Re: What is your government doing to preserve the integrity of Western Australia's Essential Ecosystem Services?</p> <p>Dear Amber- Jade,</p> <p>In your new role as Minister for Environment you will be aware that Western Australia's rich natural ecosystems and all they contain, comprise our region's life support systems. (Dr Judy Edwards, former Minister for Environment WA). Indeed, Western Australia has been blessed with an extraordinarily rich biodiversity, "like no place else on Earth ". (Professor Steve Hopper, UWA).</p>
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		<p>The Essential Ecosystem Services provided by those ecosystems are fundamental to the health and well being of all Western Australians and to the health of the economy. And to planetary health.</p> <p>In their assessments and decision-making relating to all proposals for 'changed land-use' – for clearing of natural vegetation cover in Western Australia - do EPA, DBCA and DWER factor in impacts of loss of Essential Ecosystem Services? If not, why not?</p> <p>Environmental health and human health are inextricably linked. In its assessments and decision-making relating to all proposals for clearing of natural vegetation cover in Western Australia, does the WA Department of Environment work closely with the WA Department of Health? If not, why not?</p> <p>It stands to reason the relentless land clearing in WA, and the loss of Essential Ecosystem Services associated with that, are being done at the expense of public health. We see no evidence of preventative care. In the face of such loss, what is your Government doing to ensure both environmental health and public health and well-being are maintained? How?</p> <p>What data has been gathered about the nature and extent of the cumulative loss of these Essential Ecosystem Services? What are the cumulative impacts and cumulative risks associated with that escalating loss?</p> <p>Where may we view the data please? The public are key stakeholders. Western Australia does not appear to be compliant in contributing to the Australia State of the Environment Report since 2007. This is totally unacceptable.</p> <p>We look forward to your reply.</p>
29.	Johnston Street Mt Helena	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your recently released DRAFT LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY. Please see below for a list of our comments / concerns / feedback in this area.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EMPHASISE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY. The document – preferably in the Executive Summary – should state clearly that biodiversity is a measure of environmental health (i.e. greater biodiversity = better health), and make a clear link between the health of the environment and the health of its human community. It should also emphasise that while the Shire has wonderful biodiversity, the region has already suffered large biodiversity loss (small-medium mammals) that has already reduced the land’s capacity to be the best, self-sustaining version of itself that it can be. 2. Wildlife corridors in places lack connectivity across the landscape. Weed management in such corridors – especially watercourses – needs to be an urgent priority. An ADOPT YOUR VERGE strategy – either voluntary with incentives, or compulsory with rate reductions or similar – to place the responsibilities of land owners to manage weeds and maintain the structure and composition of some native vegetation – would vastly improve weed an connectivity issues.

	<p>3. Domestic cats. We urgently need more stringent policies on the management of roaming pet cats. Containment, incentives for owners to use runs, microchipping, fines if caught roaming.</p> <p>4. FIRE. More effective LINK between fire management ('hazard reduction') and biodiversity conservation. Aboriginal People used both concurrently. We used them often in contrast. Too often are there examples of reduction burns leading to increased weed presence, reduced / outcompeted native flora. Increasing examples of killing fire-sensitive understorey species critical as foraging habitat for black cockatoos – IE BANKSIA SESSILIS.</p> <p>5. FIRE – The BAL system is not widely understood. Some general public fear trees, public education is needed so that blocks are not 'clear felled' in the hills. We are concerned about unnecessary / excess removal of vegetation under BAL. <i>"Apart from limited exceptions, the removal of local native vegetation requires planning approval from the Shire and the LPS4"</i></p> <p>6. Management of conservation reserves alongside volunteer landcare groups. <i>"The Shire requires Bushfire Management Plans to contain information that ensures key environmental features such as habitat trees are identified and protected"</i>. How is the Shire providing for this? This links to point 5 above.</p> <p>7. Illegal firewooding. This is an increasing issue that needs urgent attention and increased cooperation between other land management organisation including DBCA and the Water Authority. Increased compliance required. New ranger staff specialising in this?</p> <p>8. OFF-ROAD VEHICLES. As above.</p> <p>We are excited about hearing about the following proposed actions/ongoing initiatives which we would like to give full endorsement to:</p> <p>9. New 'Land for Wildlife' scheme - does the public know about this? Was this previously supported by DBCA?</p> <p>10. TCUP Seedling program is always well received – please retain at all costs!</p> <p>11. <i>Develop a comprehensive Lake Leschenaultia Management Plan to protect and enhance the Lake's environmental values whilst allowing for a range of nature-based recreational activities.</i></p> <p>12. <i>Hold novel events and undertake low risk trial activities to explore new ways to attract environmental volunteers, with outcomes to inform the Shire's environmental volunteer engagement model and an update of the Friends Group Manual.</i></p> <p>There are no doubt more but we feel these are some of the most significant and in need of mention. Please feel free to contact us via the below means if you would like to discuss anything further in person.</p>
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30.	Wallaby Way Chidlow	<p>In 1983, when we decided to buy our block Lot 4, now 230 Wallaby Way, Chidlow, and subsequently built our new house, we did so because of its unique location and free access to Quail Street Reserve. Ever since then we appreciated and enjoyed the tranquility of this unique location and sharing it with the local wildlife. Browsing through the Biodiversity Strategy 2022 Report, Quail Street Reserve is only mentioned in relation to “Actions-Managing Shire” managed nature reserves. Long term 2027-2030.</p> <p>We appreciate the Shire of Mundaring’s continued efforts in looking after this Reserve and its critical habitat for native species. We also want to commend the Shire for ongoing actions to eliminate the impact of 4WDs and trail bikes in these reserves, Quail Street Reserve in particular.</p> <p>Whatever the long term “Actions-Managing Shire” entails, we strongly recommend that continued access to this public reserve is important as it is part of a wildlife corridor from Lake Leschenaultia. Enough reason to leave it alone. Should any future actions involve limiting or excluding access to Quail Street Reserve become a reality, we would strongly oppose this for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This Reserve has been and still is a vital escape route in case of bushfires for residents in this vicinity, should the only other escape route to Chidlow be cut off (as occurred in the 1996 bushfire). 2. As mentioned before Quail Street Reserve is a public reserve and access to it should <i>always</i> be available as it greatly enhances the Hills lifestyle. 3. Any proposed future fencing off, eg electric fences, of Quail Street Reserve would have a negative visual impact from adjoining properties and would also affect the value of these residences. <p>We hope that this submission will be considered in any future revised LBS draft.</p>
31.	Constance St Darlington	<p>[My comments are based on long experience and involvement ‘on the ground’ BUT mostly only in a limited area of the Shire, so should be considered in that light].</p> <p>General. The document is well written and presented, and it is pleasing to see the reasoning behind its preparation, including the bringing together of many previous strategies. Before reading it my cynical question was why revise something (or several things) that seemed to be largely satisfactory on paper but largely ignored in practice and (therefore) hardly known about in the community. Wouldn’t the revision just be a similarly interesting desk exercise? However, this document does now give a coherent and more concentrated focus, providing an opportunity for the Shire and community to really put it into action. There is a lot of hard work and accumulated wisdom in its pages.</p> <p>Action 1.1 Add “... along with opportunistic weed control”. Where a weed, even a lower priority one, can be ‘nipped in the bud’ in a location before becoming a significant problem, it should be. Specifically recognize the importance of ‘edge-effects’ and the need to target these in bushland management. To some extent this ties in with likely fire management but may also be seen as partly in contradiction of the Bradley method. See also additional comment on Appendix 7 below.</p> <p>Actions 1.3, 1.8 and 1.9 I continue to advocate responsibility for assessment preparation and monitoring of management/work plans for reserves should be taken by the Shire, not the Friends group. And they are required even</p>

	<p>where there is no current Friends group (they could even help get people interested). Friends' groups should certainly assist. I would also urge the KISS principle – a single sheet outlining key threats, intentions, and methods. Better to get a lot of these done than more elaborate studies on fewer sites.</p> <p>Action 1.5 See general comments at end.</p> <p>Action 2.4 I suggest this could usefully have added some words along the lines of: “taking account of weeds pre- and post-burn.” This would also better reflect the discussion in the earlier sections.</p> <p>“Actions relating to road verges” is something of a sore point for me. Ever since my long-ago membership of the EAC and the then introduction of the Roadside Code of practice in 1997 I have looked for signs that the code and subsequent strategies might yield some positive results. Mostly I have been disappointed with a long period of apparent total neglect and failure to adhere to the guidelines laid down. Road verges (along with some private property boundaries) represent the most common “edges” (as referred to above) to reserves, and require priority attention, not neglect.</p> <p>Action 3.5 is a surprise. Other than a specific short-term instance on my recommendation I know of no such efforts to “maintain ...” ever occurring in this area (I acknowledge there was targeted program on Watsonia in some parts of the Shire in recent years). Nor has there been any apparent recognition of “flora roads”. In fact the Shire has been responsible for damaging or destroying several of the best flora roads in this area, without the slightest hint of any recognition of what they were doing. I obviously don't argue against the aim of 3.5, just the underlying premise. I can only hope this action will get underway in this area. Apart from the one mentioned, where are these flora roads and who knows about them?</p> <p>Action 3.9 should include revegetation where required (using the seed harvested as referred to in 3.20 or other methods) as well as follow up weed control. It is/was required in previous strategies, but only ever done in a few cases long ago.</p> <p>Action 3.11 is too vague, but I understand a strategy shouldn't be too prescriptive. The problem is weed control without a considered method is a recipe for destruction of any bush potential. Most adjacent owners carry it out by whipper snipping, which simply spreads grass weed seeds over the site and wipes out any native seedlings trying to grow. Perhaps some words along the lines of “using appropriate methods to allow native regeneration” would be helpful.</p> <p>Weeds (incl 1.29). I have some issues with Appendix 7. I would like the second sentence to have added: “and be amenable to effective long-term control (i.e., reduction or containment) with available resources.” In line with that amended targeting, and my own long experience in this area, I would remove Black flag, Bridal creeper, Doublegee, Freesia, Oneleaf Cape tulip, Lantana, Madiera vine, Paterson's curse, and Prickly pear. I would add Acacia floribunda, Arundo donax, Brachychiton populneus, Dipogon lignosus, Eucalytus citriodora/maculata, Lathyrus tingitanus, Lupinus angustifolius, Olive, Pandorea pandorana, Polygala myrtifolia, and Vinca major. The suggested removals are all either beyond useful effective control other than in specific restricted situations, have some limiting bio-controls, or are limited to specific areas and not rapidly or widely spreading. This does not mean they should be ignored. The suggested additions are, in my view, of far higher priority, and are all amenable to effective and high conservation value control with likely available resources. This latter factor does not appear to have been given much or any weight in the draft list (and its predecessors from 2019 and earlier on which it is based).</p>
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		<p>Illegal access and use. This covers 'joyriding' by hooners through reserves, creating tracks and damaging vegetation, along with extension of private activities such as burn heaps and rubbish dumping from adjacent residences. I haven't noticed any reference to this in the draft. It is an ongoing problem, hopefully declining as people become more educated and aware. Most Friends groups have had some experience of it. It is part of the above-mentioned 'edge effects' and needs to be recognized in the Strategy as an environmental threat, even if very difficult to deal with in some cases. With the continued turn-over of residents there will always be a need for publicity, promotion, education, and enforcement on these matters.</p> <p>Fire. While the impacts of a warming, drying climate on fire threat are well covered, I haven't seen any mention of another possible factor, thinning of the vegetation, which I believe is now becoming quite evident. When coupled with disease processes (which are mentioned), it could be that we will see a reduction in fuel load, partly offsetting the increased risk of other factors. It is obviously too early to know. We may end up with more flash fuels, hardly desirable. Fire alarmism in recent years has caused (allowed) some existing residents to take extreme destructive measures, not in keeping with living in the hills. Without knowing the full details, it also seems from some examples that the building/re-building requirements are either forcing or allowing some developers/owners to strip sites of any native vegetation. The Strategy seems to at least recognise this.</p> <p>Conclusion. Overall, this draft reads as an excellent document offering a good deal of hope. That said, it rests entirely on its implementation. Some things (e.g. Action 1.5) have too frequently been more hope than result, as private interests and pressure on Council result in watered down or dismissed requirements. It will be interesting to see if Council becomes (and is allowed to become) more prepared to prioritize the environment in the future as evidence of its deterioration accumulates, hopefully not too late. Also, ambitious aims will inevitably be moderated by budget realities. And then there is the impending and unknown impact of any enforced local government changes. Hang on to the hope seems a good motto. There is some excellent material, some only quickly read, in the appendices, and the Shire is to be commended for obtaining and including it.</p>
32.	Barkala Way Stoneville	<p>Risk mitigation regarding bush fire management is in the hands of private owners as approximately 50% of the Shire is private landowners.</p> <p>Bio-diversity is also a responsibility of landowners, many of whom require/need education. Tree canopy has been great but many residents aren't on board still, and land owners change and new owners need to be brought up to speed. Resources need to be spent on education of landowners on biodiversity and fire mitigation. Spending thousands on widening fire breaks in reserves isn't the whole answer. Biodiversity is lost and weeds take over. Creating more fire risks and cost/time to rid the area of the weeds.</p> <p>We have neighbours who burn their balgas regularly, don't revegetate, and have seeding Flinders on their property and die back. Balgas are dying weeds taking over. They think they're doing a great job with fire mitigation but biodiversity in all forms is out the window.</p> <p>Legacy properties require help with improving their 20 metre zone (BPZ) on the property to mitigate fire and with the actual</p>

		<p>house without huge costs and ridiculous suggestions we have received from particular staff members from the shire. Retention of habitat and biodiversity paramount. Education!</p> <p>I believe the discussion paper covers some of the points I've made especially one size doesn't fit all.</p> <p>Cost, is important but how is the education disseminated ? Street by street, neighbourhood watch,, house by house with non threatening working parties.</p> <p>Change has to come from Shire and landowners, but the Shire needs to walk the talk, to be creditable, and all decisions must be scientifically based.</p>
33.	Ryecroft Rd Darlington	<p>Sections on clearing and illegal logging should highlight that the Environmental Protection Act 1986, administered through the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, is the primary legislation governing removal of native vegetation. Clearing may only occur through either a clearing permit, referral or under an exemption. This would highlight and provide greater clarity on the legality of clearing native vegetation, on private or public land, the responsible agency.</p> <p>Reference to illegal logging for firewood to sell should also highlight this is illegal without a permit from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) - clearing permit from DWER may also be required.</p> <p>Additionally, is there any evidence to support this statement: "It is possible that the State Government may further expand exemptions from clearing permits and local government planning approval in bushfire prone areas in the future, particularly within Asset Protection Zones." Exemptions relating to clearing for fire and asset protection are governed by the relevant Acts - the exemptions themselves within the EP Act and the Environmental Protection Regulations (Clearing of Native Vegetation) 2004 relate to those relevant Acts.</p> <p>Also suggest inclusion of an option to providing/selling private/public land for offsets in Rising to the Challenge section, which may assist with improving management of natural areas - discussion with DWER about this process may be beneficial. Wording in this section also suggests a negative perception of State Government agencies - despite any challenges regarding collaboration and communication, negative wording may also inform public perception of those responsible State gov agencies.</p>
34.	Duncombe Drive Parkerville	<p>Fantastic Biodiversity Strategy, thanks for such a comprehensive approach. Here is my feedback, I only had a brief moment to review the draft unfortunately so I apologise if these issues were already addressed. Most of my concerns were already addressed in the document so thank you! –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under Traditional Owners I would consider changing the line that they 'were' traditional owners to 'are'. - Cats enter my property and hang out in our bush area eating birds and lizards, I see them on a regular basis and find their scats in our sand. I think there needs to be a policy that cats are kept indoors or fenced on peoples own land for the protection of our smaller fauna species and heavy fines put in place if they are found outside individuals private property.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developments needs to be hills appropriate and not contributing to the urban sprawl– can we not make our shire the first of its kind to approach development in a way that is sustainable(perhaps Fremantle is already planning like this? I know the Greens had a plan for development when Scott Ludlam was in that developed community centres in this way) Focus on going up rather than out, like two story high flats and buildings near our town centres (Mundaring) for those that want the hills life but don't necessarily understand landcare principles and develop housing in an environmentally sensitive way? Protect bush areas from any further destruction. - Pests – foxes and rats are an issue on our land. I don't like poisoning as it is not humane and is not as you say owl friendly. Working with residents to control pests in a humane way would be greatly appreciated. - Dieback consulting for residents would be appreciated. I am not sure how to protect trees on my land from the spread of it and I am losing many jarrahs. - Can the shire consider becoming spray free and frack free? These are things that damage our waterways and biodiversity. - Wildlife crossings at corridor cross overs are a concern for me. - Has edible trees been thought of for verge plantings? Food security is going to be an issue I believe so if energy is going in to planting and watering why not make them useful trees in areas where they will be maintained. - Noongar consultation and education is a priority in my view. Their connection to country is what helped them manage it so beautiful. Education for the shire and its constituents on how they connect to nature would be essential. Who are our local Noongar elders, how can we connect to them. What do they know of this area and what can they teach us? How can we preserve their knowledge and share it with our community members and future guardians. Thank you for the thorough plan and the opportunity to comment.
35.	Williams St Gooseberry Hill	<p>Overall, the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy is a useful document, and most welcome. Below are some suggestions for what could be done, in my view, to improve the document. I appreciate and concur with, in the main, the description of challenges and actions to remedy threats, problems and risks.</p> <p>Policy consolidation The document mentions the rationalisation of previous and current environmental policies into a single biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>This direction is supported as it provides for the clearer articulation of the Shire's position with respect to the retention, protection and enhancement of the biodiversity of the lands and waters that the Shire has jurisdiction for, and in its statutory relationships and partnerships with other landowners (including the Wadjuk Noongar prescribed body corporate) within the Shire and adjoining LGA jurisdictions.</p>

	<p>Policy and strategy alignment It's important (for educative and accountability reasons) that the those who read the Strategy also understand how the Strategy articulates with other policies.</p> <p>Recommended for inclusion in the body of the document, or in an Appendix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of relevant national and state, and international if applicable), laws, policies and strategies that Shire of Mundaring needs to or should comply with respect to its Local Biodiversity Strategy (Strategy), and that have a bearing on the implementation of the Strategy, including an alignment with any reporting, or biodiversity protection compliance matters and government-policy aligned criteria for funding. • A comprehensive list of current (and pending) Shire of Mundaring policies and strategies that articulate with the Strategy. <p>Definition A definition of the term 'biodiversity' needs to be included in the Strategy. It is suggested that definition is consistent with that included in Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 , – so that all native species and the habitats they need to survive, and flourish, are included under the scope of Mundaring's Strategy (not only plants, fungi and animals that is).</p> <p>Scope Shire policy to do with bush fire risk and mitigation for community safety need to be included in a separate policy or strategy, as the Biodiversity Strategy's scope should be limited to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</p> <p>The Strategy should limit its reference to fire to the use of fire to promote biodiversity and as a carbon abatement measure (as it does in the main, but this if this is the intent, then this is not clear, and it could be interpreted as a use of fire in ways that contribute to the considerable environmental damage to ecosystems).</p> <p>In my view, management plans for reserves should not be conservation and fire management plans, as the purpose of the plan in conservation, and any conservation work done which includes fire management is a subset of biodiversity protection and enhancement, as is weed removal, temporary habitat construction and planting etc.</p> <p>It's not clear why the watercourse conservation, and the protection of aquatic species, isn't explicitly referenced in the Shire's draft Biodiversity Strategy. An= reference to why this is so needs to be in the Strategy (with a pointer as to where the reader needs to go to get this information), or watercourse biodiversity strategies need to be incorporated into the Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Community engagement The Shire communicates with people who have an interest in the environment in several constructive ways. I have found that Environmental Advisory Committee, the Six Seasons Newsletter and the one-on-one advice provided by individual officers and in workshops, and the numerous resources, such as booklets, that are available online on the Shire's webpage, and the environmental art project conducted through primary schools, have been very valuable. As a participant and convener of the Friends of Falls Park reserve for over 15 years, and as a previous member of the EAC, I have been impressed by all of this.</p>
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	<p>It would be useful to articulate the work done by the Shire to engage with the community - inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower - in a systematic way about the protection and enhancement of the natural environment (that is, to do this in accordance with the IAP2 Framework for Public Participation which the Shire has adopted in its Community Engagement Plan).</p> <p>In my experience most people who move to the Shire, and many (most) long term residents, know very little about the natural environment – its biodiversity and how to care for it – and where to go for advice. This was the case for me, and for other private landowners who have been keenly involved in the Friends of Falls Park upstream riparian zone restoration work (done mainly to prevent weeds vectoring into the Reserve, and enhance water quality and the adjacent heritage trial wildlife corridor)</p> <p>Included in an all of Shire-level community engagement plan about environment protection, I think it would be good to have information about the Shire’s environment and information and resources provided to all residents – perhaps provided along with rates notices (or at least a one or two liner to point people to relevant on line info and resources), and promoted as a standard line or two in the Shire’s page in the Echo newspaper, so everyone can readily know where to look for information about the Shire’s biodiversity and what options people have to protect and conserve our beautiful hills environment.</p> <p>- Community Engagement Landcare (Friends Group) volunteers</p> <p>At present the Shire’s community engagement practices to do with land care volunteers seem to be mainly contingent on the good work done by individual officers. There does not appear to be a comprehensive articulation of the Shire’s Community Engagement Framework 2022 with engagement with/for potential and current land care volunteers.</p> <p>If this was done, the range and complexity of engagement work for and with land care volunteers could be readily described to internal Shire workers and managers, as well as the community of people who are involved in volunteering or who may be interested in an involvement in NRM. Gaps in the engagement process could also be more readily identified.</p> <p>Then perhaps the coordinators of Friends Groups and/or the Catchment Councils could provide feedback about the part of the annual reporting process that Friends groups currently do.</p> <p>Partnerships Section for all non-Shire landowners It seems inappropriate to include the land tenure issues in the Shire to do with the South West Native Title Agreement in the Section ‘The Challenges Ahead’. I suggest that it would be polite to include the potential opportunities and direction for this in a section about partnerships with other landowner jurisdictions, such as the State and Federal government-owned reserves, and with private landowners.</p> <p>Resourcing Given that the natural environment is the highest priority of residents (as evidenced in consultations conducted in the past by the Shire), the budget to employ environment policy and practice staff is too low.</p>
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	<p>The suggestions in the Strategy to employ more staff seem reasonable on the face of it, subject to the business case process suggested in the document.</p> <p>If operational matters such as staffing are to be included in the final Strategy document, it would be useful to also identify potential external sources of funding, including an option for ratepayers to make an additional contribution to environment projects (of the kind being considered by the City of Kalamunda) Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy (Strategy) comments</p> <p>Overall, the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy is a useful document, and most welcome. Below are some suggestions for what could be done, in my view, to improve the document. I appreciate and concur with, in the main, the description of challenges and actions to remedy threats, problems and risks.</p> <p>Policy consolidation The document mentions the rationalisation of previous and current environmental policies into a single biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>This direction is supported as it provides for the clearer articulation of the Shire’s position with respect to the retention, protection and enhancement of the biodiversity of the lands and waters that the Shire has jurisdiction for, and in its statutory relationships and partnerships with other landowners (including the Wadjuk Noongar prescribed body corporate) within the Shire and adjoining LGA jurisdictions.</p> <p>Policy and strategy alignment It’s important (for educative and accountability reasons) that the those who read the Strategy also understand how the Strategy articulates with other policies.</p> <p>Recommended for inclusion in the body of the document, or in an Appendix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of relevant national and state, and international if applicable), laws, policies and strategies that Shire of Mundaring needs to or should comply with respect to its Local Biodiversity Strategy (Strategy), and that have a bearing on the implementation of the Strategy, including an alignment with any reporting, or biodiversity protection compliance matters and government-policy aligned criteria for funding. • A comprehensive list of current (and pending) Shire of Mundaring policies and strategies that articulate with the Strategy. <p>Definition A definition of the term ‘biodiversity’ needs to be included in the Strategy. It is suggested that definition is consistent with that included in Australia’s Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-2030 , – so that all native species and the habitats they need to survive, and flourish, are included under the scope of Mundaring’s Strategy (not only plants, fungi and animals that is).</p> <p>Scope Shire policy to do with bush fire risk and mitigation for community safety need to be included in a separate policy or</p>
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	<p>strategy, as the Biodiversity Strategy’s scope should be limited to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity.</p> <p>The Strategy should limit its reference to fire to the use of fire to promote biodiversity and as a carbon abatement measure (as it does in the main, but this if this is the intent, then this is not clear, and it could be interpreted as a use of fire in ways that contribute to the considerable environmental damage to ecosystems).</p> <p>In my view, management plans for reserves should not be conservation and fire management plans, as the purpose of the plan in conservation, and any conservation work done which includes fire management is a subset of biodiversity protection and enhancement, as is weed removal, temporary habitat construction and planting etc.</p> <p>It’s not clear why the watercourse conservation, and the protection of aquatic species, isn’t explicitly referenced in the Shire’s draft Biodiversity Strategy. A reference to why this is so needs to be in the Strategy (with a pointer as to where the reader needs to go to get this information), or watercourse biodiversity strategies need to be incorporated into the Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>Community engagement The Shire communicates with people who have an interest in the environment in several constructive ways. I have found that Environmental Advisory Committee, the Six Seasons Newsletter and the one-on-one advice provided by individual officers and in workshops, and the numerous resources, such as booklets, that are available online on the Shire’s webpage, and the environmental art project conducted through primary schools, have been very valuable. As a participant and convener of the Friends of Falls Park reserve for over 15 years, and as a previous member of the EAC, I have been impressed by all of this.</p> <p>It would be useful to articulate the work done by the Shire to engage with the community - inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower - in a systematic way about the protection and enhancement of the natural environment (that is, to do this in accordance with the IAP2 Framework for Public Participation which the Shire has adopted in its Community Engagement Plan).</p> <p>In my experience most people who move to the Shire, and many (most) long term residents, know very little about the natural environment – its biodiversity and how to care for it – and where to go for advice. This was the case for me, and for other private landowners who have been keenly involved in the Friends of Falls Park upstream riparian zone restoration work (done mainly to prevent weeds vectoring into the Reserve, and enhance water quality and the adjacent heritage trial wildlife corridor)</p> <p>Included in an all of Shire-level community engagement plan about environment protection, I think it would be good to have information about the Shire’s environment and information and resources provided to all residents – perhaps provided along with rates notices (or at least a one or two liner to point people to relevant on line info and resources), and promoted as a standard line or two in the Shire’s page in the Echo newspaper, so everyone can readily know where to look for information about the Shire’s biodiversity and what options people have to protect and conserve our beautiful hills environment.</p>
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	<p>- Community Engagement Landcare (Friends Group) volunteers</p> <p>At present the Shire's community engagement practices to do with land care volunteers seem to be mainly contingent on the good work done by individual officers. There does not appear to be a comprehensive articulation of the Shire's Community Engagement Framework 2022 with engagement with/for potential and current land care volunteers.</p> <p>If this was done, the range and complexity of engagement work for and with land care volunteers could be readily described to internal Shire workers and managers, as well as the community of people who are involved in volunteering or who may be interested in an involvement in NRM. Gaps in the engagement process could also be more readily identified.</p> <p>Then perhaps the coordinators of Friends Groups and/or the Catchment Councils could provide feedback about the part of the annual reporting process that Friends groups currently do.</p> <p>Partnerships Section for all non-Shire landowners It seems inappropriate to include the land tenure issues in the Shire to do with the South West Native Title Agreement in the Section 'The Challenges Ahead'. I suggest that it would be polite to include the potential opportunities and direction for this in a section about partnerships with other landowner jurisdictions, such as the State and Federal government-owned reserves, and with private landowners.</p> <p>Resourcing Given that the natural environment is the highest priority of residents (as evidenced in consultations conducted in the past by the Shire), the budget to employ environment policy and practice staff is too low.</p> <p>The suggestions in the Strategy to employ more staff seem reasonable on the face of it, subject to the business case process suggested in the document.</p> <p>If operational matters such as staffing are to be included in the final Strategy document, it would be useful to also identify potential external sources of funding, including an option for ratepayers to make an additional contribution to environment projects (of the kind being considered by the City of Kalamunda)</p> <p>Threats of urban development The threats of urban development to biodiversity need to be addressed in a more comprehensive way in the document, particularly as they pertain to habitat fragmentation and a loss of species, and the degradation of water quality.</p> <p>With an increase in urban development in the hills comes an increased risk of animal road injuries and deaths, and traffic related insects deaths (and through the use of pesticides), and the spread of the Toxoplasma gondii parasite by cats (which can disable and kill wildlife), and the further depletion of groundwater and associated big tree deaths. These risks should also be included in the Strategy.</p> <p>Increased pressure on natural, beautiful, places There has been a very great increase in the number of visitors to Falls Park Reserve since the beginning of the Covid</p>
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		<p>pandemic. As a result, there has been an increase in pollution (mainly dog faeces and rubbish), erosion, and die back spread in the Reserve. A focus on tourism/increased visitor risks and opportunities, and how the biodiversity of the reserves and other natural places can be protected, is needed, as well as a consideration of funding needs and resources (as an example, see the Falls Park draft management plan – available on request).</p> <p>Bushland fragments Given how little is known about the diversity of species from all animal kingdoms in the Shire (including insects etc), plant, fungi and slime kingdoms, the suggested removal of bush fragments from the Shire’s reserve portfolio seems irresponsible. For example, findings in Dr Kit Prendergast doctoral thesis point to the importance of small bush fragments in urban environments to the survival of native bee species in competition with Italian bees. A better approach, I think, would be to focus on re-building natural habitat corridors along road reserves and tree canopies linking, where possible, bush fragments to the larger biodiversity corridors. I suggest further consultation about this with Friends and Catchment Groups.</p> <p>Conservation on private land The owners of four properties from the upstream from Falls Park Reserve have been involved in riparian zone rehabilitation on their lands with support from the Friends of Falls Park and SALP funding since 2021, and an additional private property will be included in 2023, thanks to further SALP funding (so now nearly 750m - 1 km of Jane Brook is in the project). During this the private landowners have also been involved in voluntary work Falls Park Reserve and the upstream Heritage trail reserve.</p> <p>The engagement of private landowners is a complex task, and one that I don’t have time to write about in too much detail at present. But some basic things are important, such as the importance of local landowner champions, access to information and resources, neighbours working together on hands on tasks at the Falls Reserve and on private land, tangible results (weed removal, seedlings, habitat boxes etc), and helpful environmental officer advice and responsiveness, and clear information about timing and accountability (lines of responsibility and reporting requirements) up front.</p> <p>The support of the Jane Brook Catchment Group, and the can-do attitude of its Chair and Vice Chair has been valuable. The workshops organised by the Shire, and the information booklets, have also been very useful in deepening the knowledge and commitment of the private landowners so I hear.</p> <p>A challenge in future is going to maintaining the effort, as many weeds take several years in succession to being under control, particularly blackberry, watsonia and tambookie.</p> <p>A focus group with private landowners to identify what has best facilitated their engagement in land care would be useful, so that the findings can be incorporated into the final Local Biodiversity Strategy.</p>
36.	Homestead Rd Mahogany Creek	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the keeping of old trees on private land and give regular tips and advice on how to maintain and manage them. Too many people move to the hills, believe trees cause fires, and chop them down, thus destroying the homes of thousands of diverse fauna. 2. Ban cats being allowed to roam outside. Promote cat pens, provide advice to cat owners, enforce strict fines. It's harmful to encourage native animals, including birds and quendas, onto my property only to have them attacked by cats.

		<p>3. Enforce that dogs need to be on a leash and dog owners need to pick up the excrement they create. It's harmful when I'm encouraging native animals onto my property only to have someone else's pet attack them and leave excrement that deters them or makes them sick.</p> <p>4. Ban the use of rat bait and heavily promote alternative measures. Too many boobooks are dying. Also, too many native rats and marsupials are dying because people can't tell the difference so put rat bait down for everything.</p> <p>5. Promote the planting of Hills native flora. Consider banning some of the invasive European and African plants. Give tips and advice clearly on the website.</p> <p>6. Put in crossings - pipes under the road and thin bridges over the road - to connect green areas that are separated by road. It's awful to see the amount of quendas, possums snakes, goannas, legless lizards, etc., being squished, especially in nature corridors.</p> <p>7. Make it clear whether the public is allowed to clear non-native vegetation from public areas surrounding their property. It would be nice to know I won't get into trouble for taking preventative measures against having invasive plant species on my property</p>
37.	Alps Street, Mt Helena	<p>,Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy. I appreciate the Shire's considerable effort in revising and updating the strategy, and to prepare the informative, balanced,considerate approach.I offer the following general comments for consideration:</p> <p>ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</p> <p>The Local Biodiversity Strategy provides a thorough summary. However, for a strategy, the document appears to be missing the support of a well-structured environmental management system. Notably there is nonalignment between biodiversity values, objectives/ goals, risks and opportunities, priorities, actions and indicators. These aspects, and particularly how they inform each other, could be strengthened. Many aspects exist and are performing, but the underlying structure that binds and aligns all of the Shire's work would benefit from support by a management system. Work plans and objectives (listed in Table 1) are lists of tasks that are not clearly or specifically linked to threats/risks (pg 35), principles (pg42) or indicators (pg 75).</p> <p>Without the visibility of actions linking to specific risks, it is not possible to identify gaps, or determine if the management strategy is thorough and effective. Without indicators linking directly to objectives / principles, it is not possible to measure performance and determine if the strategy is effective or if remedial works are required.</p> <p>An effective environmental management system supports to a corporation's overarching business management strategy and is linked and implemented across an entire business and becomes the responsibility of all employees and contractors to align with and adhere to. An environmental management system clearly links and illustrates the corporation's values, policies and objectives, risks and opportunities, procedures and work plans, and performance measurement throughout all activities. The system facilitates planning and implementation, and also provides an auditable system that can demonstrate a corporation's due diligence or how duty of care has been adequately administered. An environmental management system may include the following items. Many of which will already be in place at the Shire, but which may not be strategically linked and aligned throughout the business.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Values and objectives • Legal compliance, policies, standards, procedures and protocols • Accountability, decision-making processes • Risk and opportunity identification, risk assessment and prioritisation • Mapping and spatial information management • Operational control - management plans and actions plans • Resources, timeframes and responsibilities for plan implementation • Auditing, verification, assurance and built-to-plan checks • Continual evaluation and improvement programs - performance monitoring, measurement, completion criteria / indicators • Corrective and preventative action / maintenance and mitigation plans • Change management • Incident, accident and emergency management • Training, awareness, education and competence • Document control • Review and assessment of the management system <p>BIODIVERSITY RISK ASSESSMENT</p> <p>A strong, strategic, risk-based foundation is required to provide an effective Local Biodiversity Strategy. Otherwise, implementation of well-intentioned plans can be lost and become ineffective and challenging to demonstrate progress or achievement of objectives.</p> <p>A biodiversity risk assessment would form the backbone of the Local Biodiversity Strategy and associated management and work plans. This risk assessment could be included in the Appendix and clearly demonstrate how aspects of the biodiversity strategy are assessed, prioritised and managed. If not yet prepared, or requiring update, a risk assessment could be used to clearly and thoroughly identify and document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key values • Threats to values, opportunities, knowledge gaps • Evaluation and classification • Controls • Required actions to eliminate, mitigate or manage risks • Priorities, timing and responsibility (internal version) of specific actions and work plans <p>The risk assessment then informs and links work plans, performance measurement and continual improvement programs. A strategic risk-based approach can align all aspects of the biodiversity strategy, ease documentation burden and confusion, facilitate information interpretation and inform implementation plans. A strategic risk-based approach also clearly illustrates due diligence and duty of care processes.</p> <p>SPECIALISED RESOURCES</p> <p>Managing biodiversity (and fire) in the Shire of Mundaring is a challenging, complex and important task. The Shire currently provides many excellent initiatives and outcomes and do the best they can with the time and resources available to them. To implement the actions presented in the Draft Biodiversity Strategy, and effectively improve biodiversity outcomes, roles</p>
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	<p>and projects must be adequately resourced. This means specialised personnel to advise on fire, ecology, hydrology and disease, for example.</p> <p>Allocating additional responsibilities to already stretched positions will not allow for the deep technical knowledge, relationship building, collaboration, innovation, strategic thinking and problem solving that are required to advance biodiversity and fire management in the Shire of Mundaring. As noted in the strategy, a specialised fire ecology role would be a priority resource for the Shire. In addition, a dedicated member promoting / supporting and monitoring compliance with agreed land management on private land / subdivisions etc would be beneficial. As would be a role focused on reserve management, development and implementation of fire & biodiversity management plans, and Friends group coordination.</p> <p>Potentially all could strategically liaise with Governmental Landholders to progress alignment in that area. I fully support the action to adequately resource Shire roles. A strategy, without adequate resources and people to implement, cannot succeed.</p> <p>ALIGNMENT WITH SURROUNDING LANDHOLDERS</p> <p>The 2020 DPIRD figure illustrates well the challenge of aligning land management in the Shire, with the vast majority of land being held by State Government / Water Corp and Private landholders. Given that the State Government areas are generally managed by well-established DBCA protocols - there are opportunities for alignment and collaboration between the groups but approaches and strategies may differ given that scale of DBCA areas of responsibility. As already occurs, there are opportunities to share knowledge and collaborate, for example on best practice dieback management, fire management and flora / fauna / habitat conservation. Perhaps key focus areas for more extensive collaboration and alignment on biodiversity and fire management are with Water Corporation and Private Landholders. Priority could be given to lands adjacent to Reserves, or that provide key links to corridors, and waterways. Consideration could be given to areas of Water Corp land where there may be gaps in environmental management, and where a case could be presented for land management to be incorporated into existing management of adjacent Shire Reserves.</p> <p>For example, at Alps Street Reserve, Mt Helena, where Water Corp land occurs adjacent to the reserve, and where vehicular access and surface water drainage increase the risk of dieback and weeds on the biodiversity values of the reserve. Potentially Shire weed, disease and fire management plans and standards could be applied to Water Corporation land adjacent to Shire managed reserves to reduce risks and impacts to biodiversity. Naturally, adequate resourcing, sharing of costs etc would be required to facilitate this approach. As noted in the previous section. On private lands, a strategic project to identify priority conservation lands, collaborate and support willing landholders, provide education, incentives and long-term monitoring and management of corridors, habitat, wetlands etc could be established, with adequate resourcing. Promotion of land covenants and programs such as "Land for Wildlife" encourage and formalise custodianship of biodiversity values. These could be revisited, re-vamped and promoted. The Shire may also be able to support residents with applications for Government funding for conservations projects. As is currently the Shire approach, on private land, where applications are pending for development or subdivision, offsets for disturbance, such as protection and / or restoration of creeklines, allocation of public open space, or conservation reserves, setting up of management funds and trusts, could be further expanded and become a more significant tool in the Shire's biodiversity management. However, a key component of this is accountability and compliance. Compliance must be monitored, and implementation</p>
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	<p>then audited and proven. A specific compliance monitoring resource would likely be required to manage this initiative. Although some aspect of this no doubt is converted through the Planning and Environmental departments.</p> <p>CUSTODIANSHIP, RESPONSIBILITIES, ACCOUNTABILITIES</p> <p>The Executive Summary notes that “At a local level, custodianship of natural areas may include environmental restoration after fire, drought or heatwave impacts”. However, this detail is not clearly discussed in the body of the strategy and is not a thorough explanation or strategy of custodianship. Priorities for private landholders may include: balanced and informed bushfire mitigation plans, reduced clearing, weed management, balanced and informed fire risk management, reduced clearing, soil and erosion management, disease minimisation, waterway management, habitat protection and enhancement. It would be helpful to clearly list what “custodianship” may look like in the strategy, particularly for private land management. In some cases, custodianship for private landholders may require another mechanism, other than good will. Through guidelines, written recommendations and possibly more formal routes if private land management compromises surrounding biodiversity values. Such as through relevant legislation, particularly for habitat, water courses and other significant areas. Alignment with other strategies, such as the Water Hierarchy are important to include – as below. As mentioned previously, regarding biodiversity values on private land / development / subdivision (such as water courses, habitat trees and remnant bushland), a targeted approach to identify strategic locations and values, supported by documented guidance and support, with physical inspection by the SOM would be helpful.</p> <p>WATER COURSE HIERARCHY STRATEGY</p> <p>It would be helpful to include more detailed reference and alignment with the Water Course Hierarchy Strategy and other relevant strategies.</p> <p>RESERVE RATIONALISATION AND FUNDING</p> <p>Southwest WA is a global diversity Hot Spot. With increasing clearing and urbanisation, climate change and increasing catastrophic events, and spreading diseases. In this context, all natural areas, even degraded ones are important in maintaining wildlife corridors, refuge and bio-diverse habitat. Degraded habitat can be improved, and biodiversity values enhanced significantly. These areas can give the community the opportunity to engage, connect and become true custodians of their local environment. If funding is the key issue - then opportunities for funding should be better considered to achieve the Shire's Biodiversity Strategy.</p> <p>FIRE MITIGATION MEASURES AND BIODIVERSITY</p> <p>The Shire has made recent improvements in the alignment of fire and disease mitigation plans, to balance sometimes competing values and proprieties. Although this poses many challenges, continued attention and growth is needed in this area to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes. The Shire of Mundaring’s Environmental Sustainability Policy (2018) states the following, that should guide and shape fire and biodiversity management in our region, and to which all Shire of Mundaring departments and staff (and residents where relevant) should hold responsibility for:</p> <p><i>1.2. The Shire will strive to lead by example in balancing bushfire risk management with maintaining biodiversity and conservation of natural landscapes.</i></p> <p><i>1.3. Allocation of Shire resources for natural area management will take into account social and ecological values and the nature of threatening processes.</i></p>
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	<p><i>4.2. The Shire will remain agile; learning and collaborating with community groups, research in situations and relevant government agencies to adapt best practice environmental management to fit the Shire’s context.</i></p> <p>To do this, we must ensure, as appropriate, that strong leadership and ample resources are adequately and consistently applied. Shire environmental and fire teams must stay up to date with current science, which is complex and nuanced, to ensure that fire and biodiversity management is effectively implemented to support safety and biodiversity. Areas for immediate exploration with relevant experts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimal fire timing, frequency, intensity and size of burn – variable approach • Forest flammability vs fuel loads – is regular burning increasing forest fire risk? • Fuel load estimation methodology • Soil moisture and leaf litter – impact on fire risk • Historic burns and cultural practises – alignment with current knowledge • Vegetation type - response and fire ecology • Climate change and drought • Disease and fire – dieback and canker management practises addressed in fire mitigation plans • Threatened species (flora and fauna) response to fire • Mosaic burning / size of fires / vegetation types • Areas protected from burn • Corridors and areas for refuge, habitat tree protection • Areas for prioritisation of fire mitigation activities • Monitoring, mapping, measurement, maintenance • Emergency response planning <p>Appendix 5: <i>Balancing fire protection, processes and environmental diversity, considerations in the Shire of Mundaring</i></p> <p>Appendix 5 of the strategy is a report commissioned by the Shire in 2017, it needs to be brought to the forefront of the Biodiversity and Bushfire conversation and addressed. Appendix 5 notes various inconsistencies with the current approach to bushfire mitigation methodologies, and the conflict between retention of Local Natural Area vegetation and the requirements of the 2015 Bushfire Prone System. The report notes that it is appropriate to maintain 100% tree canopy cover in the Asset Protection Zone and that there is no necessity to remove mature trees within the Asset Protection Zone in order to increase fire safety. In fact, tree canopy can provide structures protection from radiant heat and ember attack. The report makes several recommendations regarding options for improving the accuracy of bushfire risk assessment. It would be beneficial for the Shire to report on how these options have been assessed / discarded / incorporated.</p> <p>Bushfire mitigation activities are one of the biggest threats to biodiversity in the Shire and this needs to be recognised and effectively addressed. Once the Shire has contemporised fire mitigation strategies, and regulations, a key area that the community needs support and guidance on – is the application of site-specific, effective and balanced bushfire mitigation plans for residential areas / private land. Increasingly across the Shire, we see residents entirely clearing residential blocks of native vegetation and mature trees. We desperately need dissemination of contemporary, site-specific fire science and effective mitigation strategies, to reduce bushfire risk, enhance and protect biodiversity and reduce fear in the community.</p>
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	<p>PRIORITISATION Prioritisation of works and resource allocation should be supported through risk assessment process. Generally, I support the prioritisation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • staffing roles and resources • collaboration with private land holders and Water Corporation for alignment in biodiversity management / conservation • collaboration with State Government for knowledge sharing / current science / best practise guidance / conservation strategies where relevant and alignment on land management practices where relevant • biodiversity mapping, monitoring and performance measurement • development of site-specific biodiversity management plan development for reserves / conservation areas • review, rationalisation and contemporisation of bushfire mitigation strategies and application of evidence-based strategies – balancing outcomes for safety and biodiversity – and update in relevant guidance. • on-ground implementation of management plans • continuation of existing and new strategies for biodiversity management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o disease identification mapping, treatment and monitoring o weed mapping, management and monitoring o vegetation mapping and monitoring / restoration projects o fire mapping and science-based mosaic burning o habitat / habitat tree mapping and protection o fauna monitoring and protection o targeted and swift feral animal control o seedling program and guidance (dieback-free) o erosion control o creek protection and restoration o corridor creation and protection • Continued engagement and education of residents, community, Friends groups • Identification and protection of cultural heritage through surveys and consultation with Noongar elders. <p>More specific comments on the document are listed below for consideration: Executive Summary The exec summary is an opportunity to give people a concise summary of the strategy. It could be more closely tied to the content of the document and clearly identify key aspects such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose and scope • Mention key guidance / compliance points or documentation – ie Environmental Policy • Lists key threats / challenges • Summarise key management strategies and principles • Sumamarise how strategy will be implemented and monitored, reviewed <p>Local Environmental Threats (pg 35) – consider inclusion of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil management / health / erosion (grazing pressure is mentioned under animals) – particularly for private land – even
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		<p>light disturbance can permanently impact ecosystem health. Residents could be encouraged leave existing bushlands undisturbed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildfire, fire management and fire mitigation activities currently threaten biodiversity, through disturbance, clearing, spread of disease, introduction of weeds, development of monoculture / ecosystem with reduced biodiversity value. • Surface water management – erosion, drainage, impediment of waterways through dams etc, sedimentation, pollution – refer to Water Hierarchy? <p>Overall presentation The overall presentation is suitable for dissemination to the public. However, a more detailed and structured document may provide a more useful, formal document for easier navigation, clarity, review and compliance monitoring / performance tracking.</p> <p>Close Much of the southwest of Western Australia- a Global Biodiversity Hotspot, including our Jarrah Forest – has been lost, degraded and disregarded, and will continue to do so. The Mundaring Shire and its residents have the opportunity to actively advocate for its protection and seek a balance between competing needs. This is a good strategy - thank you for the Shire's work on this important aspect of our region, and for the opportunity to review the Local Biodiversity Strategy.</p>
38.	Wallaby Way Chidlow	<p>I am extremely concerned after finding out recently that the Shire of Mundaring is proposing to approve a long term lease of Quail Street Reserve to Krakamia Wildlife Park. I am a member of Friends of Quail Street Reserve, having cared for this reserve for nearly thirty years. It is disappointing that our Friends Group was not notified by the Shire of Mundaring about its proposals.</p> <p>The Shire of Mundaring only has 3% of land in the shire vested with them for Parks and Recreation. It is a great pity that it is proposing to lease one of the largest reserves in the shire to an organisation that will restrict access to that land by the public. I notice that in their document 'Key draft environmental strategies', that the shire states that it doesn't want to fence off reserves. However, if its plan to lease land to Krakamia goes ahead, the Shire of Mundaring will be giving tacit approval to Krakamia to erect an electric fence around the reserve to keep people out of the area.</p> <p>Nearly 30 years ago, the Shire of Mundaring proposed a long term lease of Quail Street Reserve to Krakamia. Various reasons for not doing so were raised by concerned community members at that time. Ultimately there was a decision not to continue with the proposal when neither Krakamia nor the Shire of Mundaring could give assurances that children would be safe near the electric fencing planned to be erected around Parks and Recreation land. I can only hope that common sense will prevail this time as well. This proposal requires much more consultation with residents and stakeholders. I strongly oppose this proposal to allow a long term lease of Parks and Recreation land to Krakamia. I also don't want electric fencing to be erected around Parks and Recreation land. This land should remain accessible to the public as originally intended.</p>
39	Evergreen Consultancy	<p>Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to review the strategy. I think it is a nice document that goes part of the way to achieving what it sets out to. It is clearly worded and has lots of nice local images. It is commendable that the Shire is proposing more staff resources to manage its reserves and community liaison and suggestions of a local landcare centre</p>

	<p>and participating in research trials are brilliant! In general, I think the document does a great job of describing the challenges and threats faced by biodiversity in the Shire, but it really lacks in documenting our biodiversity strengths and assets. I also think the strategy lacks a strong vision statement that clearly defines what the Shire wants to achieve, and it doesn't prioritise actions to guide council decision making in a limited funding environment. It would also benefit from better structuring to avoid repetition and discussing the same topic over several sections. In summary, it's a good document that makes a good start, but it needs to be strengthened and built upon with additional work to satisfy its objective as a biodiversity strategy. I think that with some more work, this could be a great document and one that will set the Shire in good stead.</p> <p>I have provided general and specific comments below. It has taken me the whole day to review the document in detail and I hope my comments are taken in the good faith they are intended. I have not reviewed the BS appendices or Water Hierarchy Strategy because I ran out of time.</p> <p><u>Overall comments</u></p> <p>1. Biodiversity definition. There is no definition of biodiversity in the document. Biodiversity is everything that lives in an ecosystem – flora and fauna. This strategy only really focuses on flora/vegetation with very little consideration given to native fauna – animals, macroinvertebrates, insects and microorganisms, all of which play a critical role in maintaining our biodiversity. The document says this:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">In most cases there is very limited knowledge of our native animal population, and scarce information about fungi (which play important roles in tree and forest health). By contrast there is extensive mapping of remnant native vegetation, so this is used as the foundation of biodiversity planning in the Perth Metropolitan Region.</p> <p>You can't have a biodiversity strategy that does not consider fauna. It isn't sufficient to just make the above statement and leave it at that. The document needs more detail. Yes, we don't have all of the information on fauna, but we do have a lot of desk-top information that is readily available and should be included. What protected species do we have in Mundaring? How do the wildlife corridors and local natural areas relate to seasonal animal presence/migration/nesting/feeding? The strategy needs to include that as a baseline that can be built upon, perhaps with future monitoring or citizen science data. Mundaring is home to protected species including "near threatened" chuditch and "endangered" black cockatoos, but there is no mention of them. The lack of consideration of native fauna is a major omission in the document. Similarly, the document does not describe our biodiversity assets very well. What are our biodiversity strengths? Where are our biodiversity hotspots? Do we have any protected priority ecosystems, important sites or special areas? Where are our important trees, important ecological communities, important watercourses and wetlands etc. How can we leverage our strengths? John Forrest National Park and Beelu National Park are both important local biodiversity within our local area but are not mentioned. The Helena River is one of the last major river valleys with intact native vegetation in the Perth metro area, and one of Perth's last freshwater rivers, yet it is not described in this document.</p> <p>2. The vision. I really do not agree with the vision statement and think it needs to be re-written. Its currently stated as:</p>
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	<p>Local natural areas that are protected, connected and cared for through community stewardship and a strong culture of conservation.</p> <p>1. Local natural areas are referred to in the 2013 LPS but there is no definition of what an LNA is in this document, no map of where they are and no discussion on how they are connected to the wildlife corridors in this strategy. What does LNA mean? Where exactly is it referring to?</p> <p>2. Protection is not strong enough for a vision. It needs to be proactive not just reactive – something that protects and enhances or protects and restores.</p> <p>3. It is not acceptable to rely on community stewardship to protect and care for our natural areas. The Shire needs to be taking a leadership role in terms of guiding a strong vision and leading advocacy with other landowners to encourage them to take action for our community.</p> <p>4. What does stewardship actually mean? Same as custodianship which appears elsewhere in the document. What does this actually mean on the ground in terms of management responsibilities?</p> <p>5. What does strong culture of conservation mean? Who has the culture – the Shire or community? This is wishy washy, what does it mean?</p> <p>6. The vision has no mention of biodiversity in a biodiversity strategy. How does this vision relate to biodiversity? On a side note, the vision is buried half way through the document and is completely lost. It needs to be at the front of the document to set the scene from the start.</p> <p>A suggested vision could be: <i>The Shire of Mundaring is a place where biodiversity is enhanced and restored through a robust planning framework and science-first management approach that prioritises our unique natural environment and empowers meaningful and collaborative landcare.</i></p> <p>I'm not fixed on this but wanted to make a suggestion.</p> <p>3. Urban development, economic growth and Local Planning Scheme</p> <p>One of the biggest threats to our biodiversity is urban development. We have cleared a lot of land in less than 200 years and it has cost our biodiversity dearly. There is a reason we are a global biodiversity hotspot, and that is specifically because our flora and fauna is under serious threat.</p> <p>The state gov is continually pushing for LGAs to free up land for urban development as it works towards its goal of a 3.5 million Perth population by 2030. We are currently at 2.1 million. There is a LOT of urban development to come. What does this mean for Mundaring?</p> <p>The Shire is currently working on an Economic Development and Tourism Strategy that is built on the premise that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mundaring is unique in the Perth metro with a very different physical landscape and infrastructure base compared to most other LGAs on the Swan Coastal Plain, and that brings different planning considerations (waste water, traffic, bushfire) which set a different framework for what development can occur. • Mundaring does not have a suitable environment for growing its local economy through large scale urban development. • The Shire cannot do what most other LGAs can to grow its local economy through large scale urban development because it does not have a suitable environment, and so needs an alternative strategy to grow its local economy through tourism and other non-heavy industries (arts, heritage, culture etc). <p>This vision for the Shire's future needs to be reflected in the Biodiversity Strategy.</p>
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	<p>In turn, this needs to be reflected in the Local Planning Scheme as the framework for determining all future land use in the Shire (except crown land). If the two are disconnected, the strategy won't have much "power" in the real world as the LPS will dictate what we end up with.</p> <p>How will the wildlife corridors be protected by the LPS so they are maintained in perpetuity? How are they different from local natural areas which are in the 2013 LPS? Does the 2013 LPS accurately reflect the increased pressure our biodiversity is under in 2023? Does it reflect the Shire's new economic growth strategy to focus on sustainable tourism rather than large scale urban expansion? For example, do we still want to see developments like the 2016 Helena Valley Urban Expansion plan that resulted in the loss of riparian and floodplain landscapes in the Lower Helena River? Or are we planning for a different future? This is very important context and sets the scene for everything that will come in the future.</p> <p>4. The importance of water.</p> <p>The strategy needs to be much stronger around the importance of protecting water in our drying climate. It needs to tie in more with the findings of the accompanying Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy that concluded that we need to detain more water in the hills, slow it down and retain it for the health of our ecosystems. How are we going to do that, what opportunities are there to make that happen in the Shire, both on crown land and private? How can we change how the shire and community value's watercourses in a drying climate? This consideration needs to extend to all "waterways" including ephemeral creeks, urban drainage and low lying /floodplain environments. How do we ensure protection of watercourses and floodplains through the LPS?</p> <p>5. Balancing bushfire risk with biodiversity.</p> <p>The document does not adequately deal with the issue of balancing bushfire risk with biodiversity, despite the Shire's environmental policy stating that we will be a leader in this field. Despite acknowledging the issue to be one of the primary drivers for land management and one of the most significant issues facing our local biodiversity, it does not attempt to deal with the issue. When I recently raised this with the Shire as Friends of the Glen Forrest Superblock I was told that this strategy would address the issue. It doesn't. It makes some good suggestions, like employing a fire ecologist to work with the enviro and fire teams and exploring cultural burning, but it stops short of tackling the issue by putting it in the 'down the line" basket. The issue remains unresolved and this is a major omission in the document.</p> <p>6. Document structure.</p> <p>The document would benefit from better structuring to remove a lot of its repetition.</p> <p>The document would also benefit from a typical SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) – it has a lot about weaknesses and threats but is lacking detailed discussion about our strengths and opportunities. See above no. 1.</p> <p>It has a Rising to the Challenge section, which feels like it could be about opportunities, but lots of that discussion falls back into weaknesses and challenges. For example, page 48/146 starts talking again about challenges associated with bushfire management despite us having discussed them in the local challenges section. This should be consolidated so it only talks about challenges in the threats section and opportunities in the other. Same goes for most topics covered.</p> <p>Most strategic plans have overarching themes/pillars/guiding principles that help to organise the discussion and tie the vision into action plans. This strategy has a section called Principles but it only seems to contain two sub-sections called "Celebrate Nature" and "Expand and Support Volunteer Network". The document needs to clearly list its guiding principles</p>
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	<p>and overarching themes. This would make it easier to move through the document and see how all of the detail that is contained in the challenges and threats sections links to the overall vision and the action plans.</p> <p>7. Regional connections. Not much is said about what happens to biodiversity, local natural areas or the wildlife corridors when they leave the Shire’s boundary. Obviously they don’t just stop. What collaboration or partnership is happening with other LGAs or state government departments (DBCA and DWER/Water Corp) to manage crown land on a regional scale? The bigger pictures needs to be presented and considered, including consideration of a coordinated regional or strategic approach for things like feral animal control, weed management etc.</p> <p>8. No priorities in the action plans. There are a lot of actions – 105 in total. This is admirable, but how can they be prioritised by Council with a limited budget? Which are the most important actions or the easy wins where you can have the most impact? Can they be streamlined to be more manageable?</p> <p>9. Performance of the strategy. The strategy needs to include quantitative KPIs so the Shire can monitor and assess performance. What good is a strategy if we can’t measure its effectiveness? How will we know if it is doing what it set out to do? Who will be responsible for its overall performance when the actions are split across different service areas e.g. planning & environment, community safety etc?</p> <p>10. General tone. The document paints quite a negative picture – its a bit doom and gloom with lots of “we can’t do anything about this as its private land or state land or someone else’s remit” which doesn’t really leave me feeling very enthusiastic or optimistic about opportunities for real change. This talks back to my point about a SWOT analysis – this strategy does not document the Shire’s biodiversity strengths and opportunities very well. We need the community to feel positive/hopeful that this isn’t just a list of things we should be doing, but that we WILL be doing.</p> <p><u>Specific comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 10/146 – I do not think you can make the argument that the aerial photography shows “significant regrowth of native vegetation in some areas”. On the contrary, it shows it becoming more patchy and fragmented. • Page 11/146 – the statement about denser settlement being possible on the coastal plain where lots can connect to deep sewerage is too simplistic and reduces the issue down to wastewater which is not reflective of the whole picture. • Page 12/146 – the statement about North Parkerville and North Stoneville ultimately resting with the state government may be true but where is the local context? Shire Councillors have repeatedly voted against the development as not being suitable for Mundaring. Why does the document not include this important local context? • Page 12/146 – talks about the LPS having mapping of Local Natural Areas – we need more detail on this. Where is the map showing the areas? What does a LNA designation mean - is it that development cannot occur in these
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		<p>areas or only certain types of development? How do the LNAs relate to the wildlife corridors and how will the wildlife corridors be picked up by the LPS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 15/146 – we need to see the detail/justification about which actions from previous strategies were deemed to be irrelevant and/or recommended not to be continued. It is important context for why the shire has removed previous actions and deemed them no longer important or relevant. This could be put into an appendix. • Page 19/146 – this is all a bit doom and gloom with talk of degraded reserves and limited Shire resources. What about the positive – we have an active community that are environmentally motivated and we have NGOs that invest significant resources into landcare on crown land including Perth NRM. • Page 23/146 – makes a statement that wildlife corridors do not have to be continuous ribbons of bush but instead can be stepping stones. More detail is needed here. Why don't they need to be continuous? How does wildlife move between them otherwise? Where is the evidence to back this statement up? It doesn't really make sense. • Page 23/146 – you cant really make this general comment about maintaining native fauna when you've disregarded fauna at the beginning of the document. It's a bit flippant. • Page 23/146 – you say that coming to a common understandings about management of land with other land managers presents a significant challenge. Yes, that is obvious. What is the Shire proposing to do about it? Has this translated to an action other than a continuation of what you are already doing? • Page 23/146 – makes the comment that the Shire only manage 5% of reserves with the rest being state gov. Well, why bother then? How is that fact guiding how the Shire manages biodiversity? As it stands, it would appear that it would be more effective for the Shire to spend more time on advocacy for better land management practices on state gov managed land. • Page 25/146 – the document should include a map that shows the potential land within the Shire that could be transferred over to the Noongar Boodja Trust under the south west native title agreement. This information is available online through SWALSC interactive mapping. The reader needs to see what this means for Mundaring, not for the entirety of southwest WA. • Page 26/146 – you make a statement about regular use of fire by Noongar people before colonisation. This is way too simplistic and inaccurate and needs to be clarified. Not all forests in the Perth area were burned and they certainly were not burned as frequently or as hot as present hazard reduction burns. • Page 26/146 – yes traditional cultural knowledge should be used with modern scientific research to inform current hazard reduction burning. But how is that going to happen in Mundaring? Can we have a program of cultural burns on our reserves? • Page 26/146 – needs to mention that clearing of unsealed vehicle tracks, particularly on steep slopes, results in scouring and soil erosion which can lead to subsequent deposition in our watercourses, leading to sedimentation and infilling of water bodies. • Page 26/146 – needs to talk about the impact of hazard reduction burning on the quality of our air, water and soil and how that might impact biodiversity. How does smoke affects our air quality, particularly in valleys, and how that impacts flora/fauna? How do PAHs move from bushfire smoke into sediment that accumulates at the bottom of our watercourses and impact fish and macroinverts? How does fire affect soil microbiology? • Page 26/146 – yes habitat trees need more protection. How are you going to do this? Does the Shire know where its habitat trees are and is there mapping easily available to the community that shows this? At the very least, we need a significant tree register, which could also include scar trees, and a tree preservation law for private
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		<p>properties. The strategy should also explain why the Shire of Mundaring requires only habitat trees over 800mm to be recorded rather than state and federal guidelines of 500mm for Jarrah and Marri and 300mm for Wandoo and Salmon gum. Where is the detail?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 26/146 – needs to include the minimal requirements that DFES require from the Shire in terms of bushfire mitigation. I recently raised this at Glen Forrest Superblock and was told that DFES have a minimum standard for some of these reserves including Xm wide firebreaks. If this is mandatory, it needs to be specified in the document to give community context about what the Shire is legally required to do. This will help with managing expectations. • Page 26/146 – needs to include discussion about how creation of firebreaks in reserves can also increase the risk of dieback, soil erosion, water runoff and weeds if not constructed or maintained properly. • Page 26/146 – needs to include discussion around the appropriateness of using forestry mulching as a bushfire management practice and the risk of spreading weeds/dieback if not done carefully. Is forestry mulching best practice? • Page 27/146 – talks about bushfire mitigation in terms of hazard reduction but doesn't mention what FESA states is the leading cause of bushfires e.g. arson or human intervention. How do we tackle that e.g. public education, strong advocacy for higher penalties for offenders? • Page 28/146 – this skirts around a major issue in that more and more scientists are speaking out against DBCA hazard reduction practices on crown land, including former DBCA staff. This issue cannot and should not be ignored and will need to be resolved as we move into a drying climate. Given that the Shire aims to be a leader in this regard, it needs to do a lot more to push a science-first approach with regards to bushfire management. Bushfire risk management affects our Shire more than most as one that is heavily forested and has one of the highest proportions of state gov managed land. We are in an ideal position to facilitate positive change. • Page 30/146 – it seems strange to talk about cane toads and not talk about other feral species in the Shire that currently pose a greater threat for our native fauna e.g. cats and foxes. They should be included in here, or cane toads moved to the feral animal section further on in the document. It doesn't need its own section. • Page 32/146 – this section recognises human induced climate change as a key threat to biodiversity that requires reduction of carbon emissions. Therefore it needs to include consideration of the massive carbon emissions that come from large scale hazard reduction burns in the Shire. Do we know how much carbon is released into the atmosphere when burns are conducted in our Shire? • Page 35/146 – the Local Environmental Threats section is a bit disjointed and jumps around a bit – it talks about cane toads, then onto something else, then back to feral animals for example. • Page 35/146 – needs to include canker which is a serious threat to our marri trees. • Page 36/146 – talks about clearing without mentioning why most clearing occurs i.e. urban development and the pressure from the state gov to clear land to accommodate a huge projected population increase in just 7 years' time. • Page 36/146 – needs to include mention of Environmentally Sensitive Areas or Threatened Ecological Communities where clearing exemptions do not apply. • Page 38/146 – needs to recognise that a lot more effort/resources needs to be focused on weed management both in terms of improving biodiversity and reducing bushfire risk. What kind of advocacy does the Shire do to increase the amount of weed management undertaken by the state gov in our Shire e.g. grassy weeds on road reserves, blackberry and bridal creeper in the Helena Valley? How is the Shire prioritising WONS?
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		<p>ecological value? What factors would that consider? Wouldn't it be a better strategy to empower communities and schools to adopt a reserve rather than sell them so you have less reserves to manage? Is that really the best we can come up with? Who proposed this idea and where did it come from? It really needs to be removed from the document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 49/146 – will Environmental Asset Inspections now be suggested to people who live within wildlife corridors as well as LNA? • Page 51/146 – how do the wildlife corridors and REL consider fences or infrastructure barriers on private and crown land that restrict wildlife movement? • Page 53/146 – all of this seems to be discussion about challenges posed by animal management rather than opportunities. This should be consolidated with the earlier section about feral animals in the local threats section. • Page 55/146 – needs to include the importance of not leaving stagnant water around and the associated risk of encouraging mosquitos. • Page 55/146 – do these suggested actions for maintaining water for wildlife translate to specific actions in the action plan? • Page 55/146 – calls for rehabilitation of priority watercourses. Needs more detail as it doesn't seem to have translated into the action plans. How will this happen What is a priority watercourse? • Page 60/146 – these suggested actions for using two-way science to inform bushfire mitigation need to translate to specific actions in the action plan. • Page 62/146 – shouldn't this be Actions to protect our <i>Biodiversity</i> rather than <i>Natural Heritage</i>? • Lobbying both the state and federal governments to reduce pressure on urban development in the Perth Hills, increase funding for environmental purposes and adopt a more science-first approach, particularly with regards to bushfire management, should be a key action that the Shire is always doing. • Where is our baseline data for the quality of our environment? What is our water and soil quality? What data do you have on flora and fauna? What monitoring are we doing now or in the future to understand our baseline and if we are improving? What citizen science projects can we tap into? • The strategy needs to mention opportunities around the newly established environmental fund what that means. Can this be used to fund specific actions in the strategy? • Images should have captions. If you have a photo of the bird, state what bird it is. Give the reader some local context to the imagery used. • The document needs to be clearer about what time frame it covers – the actions plans cover a certain time period but this needs to be started upfront and perhaps in the document title. •
40	Newric Road, Glen Forrest	<p>Appears to be a well thought out and thorough document. It is extremely pleasing to see that it is environmentally sound (my opinion) and that the shire is showing great integrity in it's approach to the subject. My concerns about the future care of the Mundaring environment are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carbon offsets are a furphy. 2. Land fragmentation should be avoided. The thought of house blocks being smaller than half an acre is a no. 3. If the building of a house on such a block means that all the native vegetation on the block has to be cleared (due to current fire regulations) then perhaps the owner needs to reduce the size of the house (or go somewhere else). Perhaps

		<p>the regulations should be relaxed. Most property owners would probably wear the risk.</p> <p>4. There is a need to continually approach the State Government to legislate for greater retention of native plants when areas are cleared for housing and to get the WA Planning Commission to be more environmentally responsible. We are living in different times & they need to adapt.</p> <p>5. A push for further legislation to protect vital habitats should be presented to the State government.</p> <p>6. Yet again, legislation to increase the restrictions on the owning of cats should be pushed. (Great if cat ownership was banned). And it should be a lot stronger than simply saying that cats should be kept within the property, because they wouldn't be..</p> <p>7. Interesting to read the information about fire regimes. A huge, incredibly complex problem, but one which I believe is not being handled properly (to the best of my limited knowledge) in a way that is being said it should be. All talk, no action. Thanks for the opportunity for me to have my say.</p>
41	Harold St Glen Forrest	<p>First impression is a good and comprehensive document.</p> <p>comment 1: the document is beautifully illustrated. however, page 15, the insect looks like a feral introduced European honeybee which is the antithesis of the intention of the document. please have it look more like a local bee e.g blue-banded.</p> <p>page 26 typo ... to inform modern practice</p> <p>p 28- 29 I agree that the asset protection zone concept is not helpful . Largely we see it misinterpreted as total clearing which, given block sizes, increases fragmentation and edge effects. Additionally every one of these cleared edges automatically grow weeds and most people don't bother to manage them properly.</p> <p>This allies with the hugely increasing cost of home and content insurance (for us a \$1300 increase for same level of insurance in one year) because most people still do not understand how best to care for hills vegetation and allow weed invasion and loss of natural protections, which affect everyone. Again, regarding the fire theme, is the language which puts the blame on the bush, rather than encouraging individuals' responsibility. While institutions of authority (local government, DFES, radio stations etc) continue the misleading phrase 'bushfire", people will blame the bush which promotes more ill-considered destruction and more fire hazard in a never-ending cycle. Better to use the words 'fire', and 'grass fire' and 'fire due to arson' or 'accidental fire" or roadside fire that spread because it began amongst weedy grasses, or watsonias or weedy wattles. Perhaps people may begin to understand to be able to manage the most dangerous hazards. Hence, I do suggest improvements in communication, that includes choice of words.</p> <p>On the same theme, all the road edges are becoming worse with weeds, hence fire hazard, particularly watsonia in Kalamunda shire and Perennial veldt grass everywhere else. However, the well-intended, OSH rules state the Shire landcare team may not work anywhere near the road, and contracting traffic management is prohibitively expensive. So, somewhere here, management needs to make allowances for road edge work to be done as it needs to be, for everyone's safety. Apart from that, this Shire will be the most attractive of all.</p> <p>page 39: cats need stronger laws to keep them contained. I see too many cats uncontrolled, hunting any time, day and night, and all new families/ residents need regular reminders and incentives to manage their pets.</p>

		<p>page 40: fox with prey Glen Forrest The railway heritage trail which follows the watercourse Nyaania creek, is a fox highway, yet every time we ask for help, it is declined , due to proximity of homes and dogs. Laws need to improve to improve fair treatment of local wildlife, rather than preference to pets</p> <p>Regarding volunteers, Friends groups and historical revegetation or rehabilitation works: volunteers can be supported with programmes to manage maturing revegetation sites, to reduce the more hazardous middle storey and improve understorey. I think the wording in the document is a bit unfair as volunteers have planted what was made available by the Shire and relates to the history of landcare, not any one individual's behaviour.</p> <p>The concept of a hills local nursery for real re-veg could help, as would the provision of reference sites.</p> <p>Practical assistance with weed management is needed to negotiate the current overcorrection and misunderstanding with resultant weed explosions, associated with glyphosate. In reality the weeds are more dangerous (immediate and long-term) than any perceived anxiety about glyphosate. Shire staff need management support to deal with the public misunderstanding, anxieties and complaints, and free them to get on with the work.</p> <p>The landcare team is inadequate. More on-ground staff are needed to manage local natural areas, independent of volunteers</p> <p>p 55 the concept of providing clean water stations for wildlife is good. Additionally, bat boxes could be installed along watercourses where there is danger of complaints about mosquitoes.</p>
42	Coulston Rd Boya	<p>The draft is oblivious to the fact that the vast majority (probably 90%+) of bushfires result from arson or carelessness. Just a few days ago, it was in the news that the volunteer firefighter that had lit "nine bushfires in Perth's east" had avoided being sent back to jail.</p> <p>Please include strategies for educating and informing the residents on relevant aspects of arson and the need for care when fire risk is present. That education must expressly state that arson and carelessness are the predominant causes of bushfires.</p>
43	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	<p>Assessment</p> <p>- It should be noted that DFES previously provided advice towards the <i>Balancing Fire Protection Processes and Environmental Diversity Considerations</i> in the Shire of Mundaring (paper) (Version 1.0), prepared by Bushfire Prone Planning, on the 5th of December 2017. Comments made in that response have not been repeated here, but remain relevant to the Strategy insofar as the content relates to recommendations from the discussion paper. - DFES maintains reservations over the proposed local variations to the Bushfire Protection Criteria, which it is considered compromise the intent of an APZ performing the dual functions of hazard separation and defensible space. - DFES does not seek to make comment on the Draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy.</p> <p>Section</p> <p>The Challenges Ahead –Future Development & Growth (P.17)</p>

		<p>Assessment/Comments The text states “State vegetation modifications are now embedded into the State planning framework and building regulations. They inform bushfire consultant accreditation standards and insurance policies, and are not expected to be reduced or withdrawn.” It is not clear how vegetation modification requirements influence bushfire consultant accreditation standards. This reference should be reviewed and clarified</p> <p>Recommendation Review and update.</p> <p>Section The Challenges Ahead – Knowledge (pp28-29)</p> <p>Assessment/Comments DFES previously provided advice in relation to the discussion paper Balancing Fire Protection Processes and Environmental Diversity Considerations in the Shire of Mundaring. DFES provided comments on the discussion paper by letter dated 5 December 2017 (DFES ref D03614).</p> <p>It is considered that reference to removal of 85% tree canopy exaggerates likely requirements. The APZ standard relates to a 15% canopy cover, rather than removal of 85% of canopy cover. In its natural state, northern Jarrah Forest in the Shire of Mundaring would be expected to have less than 60% cover, which would obviously not require 85% reduction to achieve a total 15% canopy cover. The 15% canopy cover criterion for APZs was developed following consultation through a national Bushfire Standards Working Group and remains the standard that DFES would expect to see applied for APZs to provide adequate hazard separation and a defensible space. While the paper has been shared with DFES, the wording implies that it is being used to inform DFES’ approach, whereas this is not the case. Further discussions on DFES’ approach could occur in the future. DFES received correspondence from a CSIRO fire scientist indicating they had not formally reviewed the paper and not formalised a position on the matter. It is not clear from the Strategy text whether this is the same person, however this should be validated for accuracy prior to publication</p> <p>Recommendation The details of this section should be reviewed for accuracy. In particular, DFES requests that the paragraph on p29 be reworded to remove the implication that DFES’s approach will be informed by the paper. The reference to 85% canopy removal would be more accurately presented as 15% canopy retention</p> <p>Section Table 1, Rec. 1.5 (p.63)</p> <p>Assessment/Comments DFES acknowledges complexities associated with achieving a balance between bushfire management and biodiversity conservation as per policy objective 5.4 of State Planning Policy 3.7: Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas (SPP 3.7),</p>
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		<p>particularly where urban form reflects that seen throughout the Shire of Mundaring. As noted in the Guidelines for SPP 3.7, this is best addressed through strategic planning. In line with this approach, DFES supports the use of strategic planning to steer development to appropriate locations that minimise the need for clearing, e.g. within established townsites. This is addressed largely through “Location” assessment against SPP 3.7. Within a proposal site, “Siting and Design” matters enable developments to respond to hazards present. It is noted that the document is a biodiversity strategy rather than a planning document as such, however it appears to focus on responding to proposals by recommending conditions, rather than promoting refusal or objection where the bushfire and biodiversity matters cannot be adequately resolved.</p> <p>Recommendation DFES encourages the Shire to highlight the possibility of refusing or objecting to proposals where biodiversity and bushfire matters cannot be reconciled, rather than recommending use of conditions</p> <p>DFES recommends that the issues in the above table are considered, and modifications made to subsequent iterations of the Strategy.</p>
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10.4 Adoption of Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy Following Public Consultation

File Code	PS.STG.03
Author	Andrew Bratley, Co-ordinator Strategic Planning
Senior Employee	Mark Luzi, Director Statutory Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy (with modifications shown) ↓2. Draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy (with modifications accepted) ↓3. Schedule of Submissions ↓

SUMMARY

The main purpose of the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy (WcHS) is to identify key issues and threats facing the management of watercourses in the Shire, and recommend corresponding strategic, planning based and operational actions to improve and protect watercourses.

Consultation on the draft WcHS has been completed. Some of the submissions received have recommended that modifications be made to the draft WcHS, some of which have been made (refer to **Attachment 1**).

It is recommended that Council adopts the revised WcHS (refer to **Attachment 2**).

BACKGROUND

Preparing a WcHS was identified as a priority task when the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) adopted the Local Planning Strategy in 2013. Council committed to the preparation of the WcHS in the Corporate Business Plan, ahead of a major review of the Local Planning Strategy.

The WcHS seeks to delineate watercourses throughout the Shire as accurately as possible.

Previous contour mapping was based on a combination of five metre contours, with more detailed contours limited to the foothills. Significant topography changes can exist within a five metre contour. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging), uses laser pulses to accurately measure distance from the light source to reflecting surfaces. LiDAR is typically used to create images of the land surface at fine scale (i.e. 0.5m contours).

Importantly, access to LiDAR technology and mapping processing capability has provided the Shire with imagery with unprecedented detail. This has informed the WcHS. Over time and combined with other data, it will provide the backbone to support the review of the Local Planning Scheme, and potentially other investigations such as more accurate bushfire modelling, and more precise infrastructure / stormwater management insights.

WcHS recommendations were developed by first undertaking a geographically based (GIS) synthesis of issues. This provided the backdrop for informed targeted stakeholder

consultations, exploring and documenting what might be possible currently and into the future.

Strategic issues and outlook have been represented spatially across the different catchments. A new strategic direction is presented which, amongst other more specific actions, includes the following recommendations:

- Better control of storm flow peak-velocities for improved erosion control;
- Greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas;
- Better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities;
- Provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and help landowners become responsible land managers;
- Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors; and
- To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.

At its November 2022 meeting, Council resolved to endorse the draft WcHS for the purpose of advertising (C5.11.22).

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The effective implementation of a WcHS is consistent with section 1.3(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995*, which states:

“In carrying out its functions a local government is to use its best endeavours to meet the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.”

Broadly, the LBS is a strategic document and does not impose direct statutory or legal implications on the Shire.

The WcHS is specifically referenced within the Shire’s existing Local Planning Scheme No.4 and will become a mechanism to guide separation distances from watercourses. It will also inform the Shire’s review of Local Planning Scheme No.4.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is important to note the full, successful implementation of the recommended actions listed under the Strategy will require future budget decisions that potentially result in additional resources. However, some of these decisions will also be based on the specific business cases that are prepared and the range of budget pressures and priorities that Council must take into account in its annual corporate business planning and budget process.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 3 - Built environment

Objective 3.3 – Regulated land use and building control to meet the current and future needs of the community

Strategy 3.3.1 – Incorporate appropriate planning controls for land use that meet current and future needs without compromising the highly valued character of the natural and built environment

Local Planning Strategy

The Local Planning Strategy makes specific provision for the preparation of a Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy:

“One of the requirements of State Planning Policy 2.9 Water Resources...is that Local Planning Strategies should map all water resources within a local government, assign each type of resource a priority or hierarchy of significance, and identify appropriate setbacks or buffers to these.

*Resources have not allowed the Shire to conduct this work in the preparation of this Local Planning Strategy. However, **it is recommended that preparation and adoption of a Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy should be carried out as a high priority.**”*

“The Shire supports measures to maintain and improve water quality and the overall environmental health of watercourses and waterbodies within the Shire.”

The following are recommendations from the Local Planning Strategy, amongst others:

“Prepare and adopt a Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy as a high priority.

In a Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, accurately delineate watercourses throughout the Shire as far as possible, assign each watercourse within the Shire a particular level in a hierarchy, and identify required setbacks to watercourses in each level of the hierarchy.”

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Watercourses are vital to the community’s sense of place and wellbeing. They function as important recreational areas, hold historical, spiritual and cultural value, support flora and fauna, and are used in the suppression of bushfires.

The WcHS recommends actions the Shire can take to navigate the dual impacts of climate change on waterways, which include a drying climate but with more significant storm and rainfall events.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Reputational. Maintaining a contemporary policy framework is central to the Shire’s role in providing good governance and decision making.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Action / Strategy		

The WcHS provides guidance regarding site and development requirements for land within the vicinity of watercourses. Also, with recommended strategic, planning based and operational actions. It is recommended that the WcHS be adopted by Council.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Following Council's November 2022 decision to endorse the draft WcHS for the purpose of advertising, the draft WcHS was advertised concurrently with the Local Biodiversity Strategy from 25 November 2022 up to and including 6 February 2023. Advertising included:

- A notice in the local newspaper;
- A notice and a copy of the WcHS on the Shire's website and at Shire libraries;
- Correspondence inviting comment on the WcHS being sent to Friends Groups and Catchment Groups within the Shire, Environmental Advisory Committee members, Perth NRM, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Swan River Trust, the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation and Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, City of Kalamunda, City of Swan, Shire of York, Shire of Northam, Shire of Toodyay, and the Mundaring Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service.
- Correspondence inviting comment on the WcHS being sent to all existing watercourse custodians (to generate interest and landowner insights/participation).

During this period 27 submissions were received which provided comments on the draft WcHS, with two being from the same submitter. Refer to **Attachment 1** for the draft WcHS which shows some of the modifications suggested, and **Attachment 3** for the schedule of submissions.

COMMENT

This report and the associated attachments were presented to the Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) on 27 March 2023. The meeting was conducted as if it was a formal Environmental Advisory Committee, however, as some members joined the meeting virtually (ie via Cisco Webex), pursuant to section 5.25 (1)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, the meeting could not be recorded as constituting a formal meeting of the committee. The meeting was nevertheless important as it provided an opportunity for committee members to provide feedback on the WcHS. The majority of EAC members in attendance did recommend the WcHS for Council adoption.

The WcHS concludes that the Shire's existing statutory provisions are largely effective and require only minor refinements. These refinements will be considered as part of the minor review of Local Planning Scheme No.4.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION RECOMMENDATION	C9.04.23
Moved by Cr Daw	Seconded by Cr Ellery

That Council adopts the draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, as shown in **Attachment 2**.

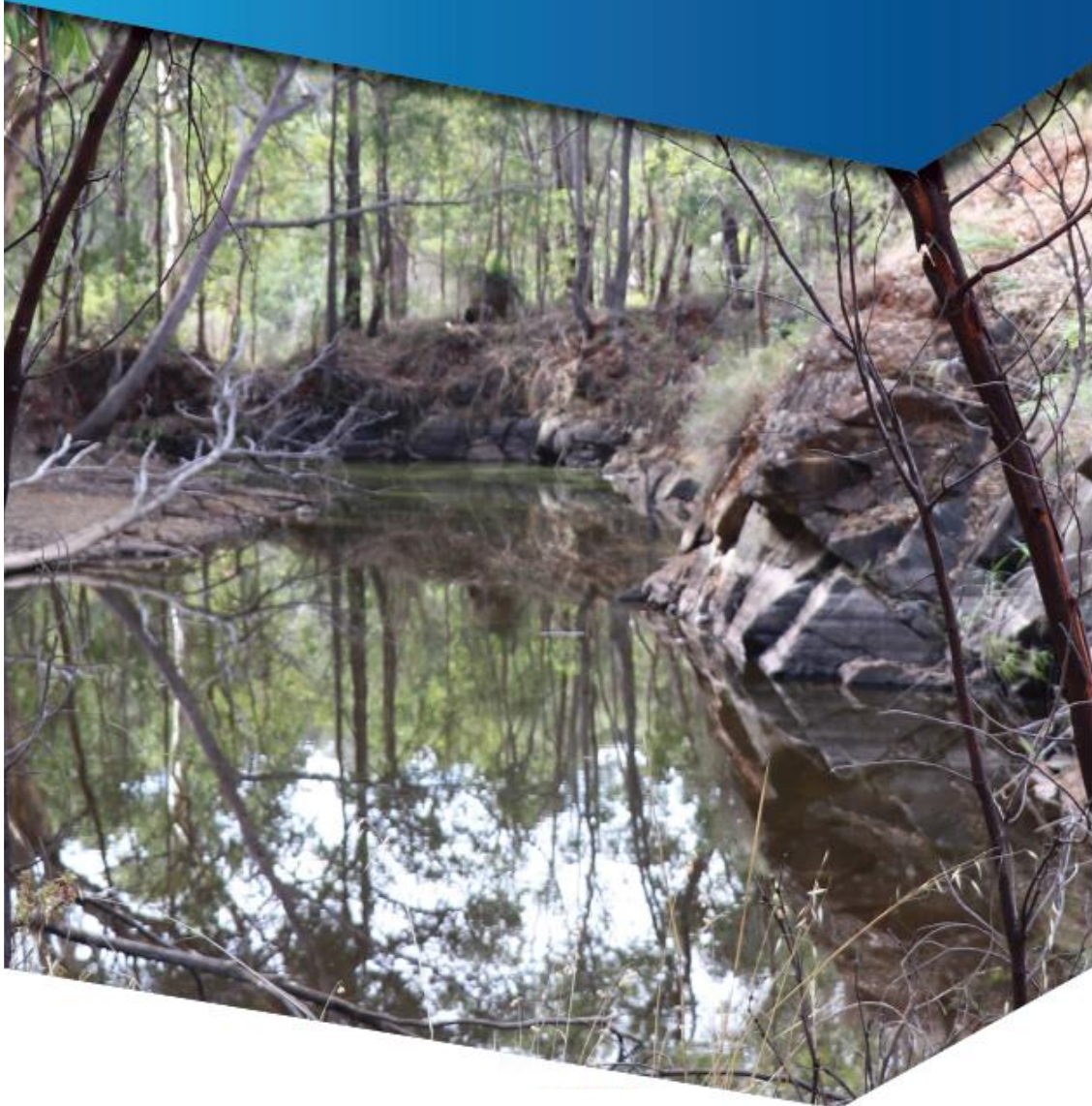
CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale
and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

DRAFT

Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy



urban|design
plan|development

ASE
Assoc. Services
Environmental

Shire of
MUNDARING

**WATERCOURSE HIERARCHY STRATEGY
SHIRE OF MUNDARING**

**~~RIPARIAN CORRIDOR~~ FORESHORE AREA FUNCTION AND
MANAGEMENT**

17 October 2022

By **urbanplan** and Acacia Springs Environmental

On behalf of Shire of Mundaring

Approved by: Ian Brashaw

Signed / Date: 17 October 2022

Position: Principal

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Acknowledgements

The assistance and advice provided by representatives of the local catchment groups and Shire staff is gratefully acknowledged.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy defines the key issues and threats facing the management of watercourses in the Shire and recommends corresponding strategic, planning based and operational actions.

The Shire of Mundaring has an extensive watercourse network, totalling a length of 2307km. Approximately 40% of the watercourses traverse through private land and around 60% through a vast network of public reserves.

Watercourses play a vital role in sustaining biodiversity in the shire. Watercourses also define the shire's distinct landscape amenity and sustain a range of social, cultural and economic values. Healthy waterways are therefore integral to delivering on the Shire's vision - a Place for Sustainable Living.

Watercourses and the ~~riparian zones~~ **foreshore areas** along the banks are under threat. Key threats include changing rainfall patterns due to climate change, land use and development pressures and increasing impervious surfaces causing erosion and sedimentation.

Recommendations were developed by first undertaking a geographically-based (GIS) synthesis of issues. This provided the backdrop for informed targeted stakeholder consultations, exploring and documenting what might be possible currently and into the future.

Strategic issues and outlook have been represented spatially across the different catchments (pages 29 to 31 and 37 to 41). A new strategic direction is presented which, amongst other more specific actions, include:

1. Better control of storm flow peak-velocities for improved erosion control.
2. Greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas.
3. Better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities.
4. Provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and help landowners become responsible land managers.
5. Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors.
6. To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.

Recommendations inform statutory land use decisions under Local Planning Scheme No.4, future investigations, operational priorities and stormwater interventions. The outcomes of this strategy have informed the development of Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy (particularly the wildlife corridor mapping) and Public Open Space strategies. Further, it is intended that the findings of the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy shape the future review of the Local Planning Strategy and the next iterations of the Shire's local planning scheme.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 CONTEXT

The geomorphology of the Shire of Mundaring consists of incised perennial and intermittent drainage in laterite soils overlying Yilgarn block granite. This landform is entirely different to the coastal plain with its shallow groundwater and nutrient-leaching soils. Agricultural and urban land use on the coastal plain has been largely responsible for the unacceptable nutrient loads reaching and threatening the Swan River Estuary. Stormwater management systems on the coastal plain have been focussed on infiltration and bioretention systems that hold the stormwater for significant periods of time for treatment.

The Mundaring uplands require special consideration and tailor-made solutions. For example, detention systems are required to slow stormwater runoff and reduce its peak velocities which lead to erosion. Infiltration basins on the finer-textured clays and loams are less effective because the coefficient of infiltration is much less than for Swan Coastal Plain sandy soils. Additionally, highly P-fixing soils in the hills bind phosphorus and P levels in runoff from Mundaring catchments are currently within the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' Swan River Trust's acceptable short and long-term targets. Consequently, water quantity and velocity management are more significant than water quality (nutrient) management.

Land use characteristics also affect watercourse water quality and stream dynamics. Forested catchments need to be considered differently to rural residential areas. Equally, private ownership compared to state and local government tenured and operated catchments, differ.

Depending upon the land use characteristics and erosion potentials, water quality can also be an issue. Non-structural controls including education and awareness for stormwater management would be an effective approach for such catchments. These are institutional and pollution prevention practices designed to prevent or minimise pollutants from entering stormwater runoff and/or to reduce the volume of stormwater requiring management.

These include better practices of local government operations, asset managers, industrial/commercial businesses and householders, through mechanisms such as maintenance practices, regulation, strategic planning and education. They usually work by changing behaviour through government regulation (e.g. planning and environmental laws), education and/or economic instruments. Education and awareness for stormwater management can be developed by various sectors of the community to raise awareness and provide a catalyst for a behaviour change to reduce pollution entering the stormwater system.

2.2 SHIRE PROFILE

The shire is mostly uncleared of remnant vegetation and, in addition to public land such as National Parks, State forest and drinking water supply catchments, Local Natural Areas also occur on private land. There is thus the opportunity, and a significant expectation from Shire residents, that the natural environment will be protected and maintained. The Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy provides directions for biodiversity protection.

Protection of watercourses within the shire from pollution and sedimentation, from existing and future land use and development is important both for the maintenance of environmental values

1

urban plan	watercourse hierarchy strategy
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within the shire itself and because watercourses in the shire flow to the Swan and Helena Rivers. Local impacts on watercourses may have adverse consequences downstream. There is also a risk of dryland salinity from sub-catchments draining areas to the east and there may be acid sulphate soils in some areas of the shire, notably in proximity to watercourses.

More than 2307.6 km of 3-9th-order streamlines across the shire deliver surface runoff with lesser amounts of groundwater seepage to the Swan River estuary. The Swan and Canning Rivers have been experiencing regular potentially harmful phytoplankton blooms, a symptom of a eutrophic and overloaded system. Urban and rural development within the larger Swan-Avon catchment has reduced the hydrological buffering of the Swan-Canning as a system. This means that the residence time of water within most catchments has been considerably reduced, impeding the natural assimilative processes of ~~riparian corridors~~foreshore areas.

Unfortunately, the process of reserving land and separating land uses and/or development from creek lines has often failed to deliver the required outcomes. Given the scale and low-density population in the Shire, securing waterways into public ownership and regulation alone cannot address the fragmented ownership, and fragmented management of waterways throughout the Shire. Further, regulation alone does not of itself generate the community mindset or consider adequately, the very significant human and financial resources required to balance and manage operationally, cultural heritage and biodiversity protections, bushfire risks, hydrological functioning, weed infestations, and unauthorised off-road vehicle access, to name a few of the often-competing issues.

The WA EPA (2021), has concluded that the planning framework in WA is important for managing impacts on ~~riparian environments~~foreshore areas. To this end the Shire of Mundaring has been developing a more responsive and creative policy approach and have concluded that a broader stakeholder engagement is essential to delivering greater community buy-in and action. This is exemplified by the early successes of various sub-catchment '*Friends of*' groups. Given the established science, the prevailing policy context and early community buy-in, a forensic interrogation of the 'system' is now required to determine what has and hasn't worked, where, when, how and why.

The **urbanplan** and ASE team have embarked upon a geographically-based (GIS) synthesis of issues that provides the backdrop for targeted stakeholder consultations, exploring and documenting what might be possible currently and into the future.

2.3 WATERCOURSES HIERARCHY STRATEGY APPROACH

Our joint establishment of a local vision for Mundaring's watercourses is has been guided by contemporary scientific and policy development and stakeholder inclusion. It aims to deliver the required concise Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, while addressing various streamline hierarchy levels, land tenures and land managers (state and local government and freehold).

To mitigate against changes brought about by land development and other disturbances and the subsequent alterations to landform and ~~riparian areas~~foreshore areas, waterway hydrologic and ecological functions need to be maintained as close as practicable to their original state (Section 2.6 provides more detail on impacts). The policy response derived from the empirical research needs to set strategic actions with assigned responsibility. In this regard the

catchment groups offer a significant vehicle to guide and support freehold owners in managing watercourses on private property.

A future role for landowners as joint custodians will be significant if improved management practices are to be implemented in all areas of the shire in private ownership. This recognises that around 40 percent of the shire's waterways are proximate to, or within areas of freehold ownership. This requires community actions across the shire, supported by the Shire's communication of information and education materials demonstrating the principles and processes and mitigation techniques that will support appropriate actions by all landowners.

2.4 APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT

To achieve effective community consultation during the pandemic the **urbanplan** Acacia Springs Environmental team, established an informal focus group with representatives from each of the catchment groups active within the Shire and undertook targeted communications with members of the Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee.

A number of discussions were held between the consultants and Shire staff with officers of the DWER, regarding the use of LiDAR for determining and classifying watercourses. While it was appreciated from comparisons with existing data, that the LiDAR-derived watercourse hierarchy was a significant improvement in available data for the shire, it was recognised that it should not substitute for site-specific assessments of potential impacts and opportunities for particular land development initiatives.

This approach drew on detailed local knowledge of catchment and waterway characteristics and the experiences of mitigation and restoration activities that had been undertaken over the past 20 or so years.

For the purpose of this Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order Strahler Streams mapped across a catchment using LiDAR having equal to or better than 5 cm vertical resolution.

2.4.1 ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the community engagement with local people was threefold:

- a) to glean local understandings of riparian-foreshore area function and processes, particularly as they related to issues and restoration and mitigation actions;
- b) to share our consulting experience and understanding of waterway functions and process more broadly; and,
- c) to explore potential implementation and the required resourcing and support.

The local information that was so freely shared by local 'experts', is gratefully acknowledged and has been crucial in guiding the direction and outcomes of this investigation.

2.5 ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

The development of issues focused on matters aligned with the investigation's scope requirements and were not particularly linked to socio-political implications of future land developments. Issues fell into two groups including:

- I. generic issues that applied over much of the shire; and,
- II. localised issues that were associated with particular locations and/or situations.

2.5.1 GENERIC ISSUES

The following issues were collated from members of the Shire's Environmental Advisory Group and determined from various reports and documents. They included:

1. Environmental weeds and pests have been observed in many locations across the shire. These include a wide range of introduced grasses and dicotyledons such as nightshade, arum lily and cotton bush and pests such as mosquitos, European wasps, rodents, foxes and feral animals. The Shire has made a number of on-line resources available such as weed identification and control and for pest control.
2. Bank and bed erosion have been observed across the shire. Erosion caused by swiftly flowing storm flows has the potential to damage associated infrastructure such as roads, bridges and paths, and lead to sedimentation and turbidity impacts on aquatic habitats (Photo plates 1 and 2) .
3. House values were seen to be related (positively and negatively) to streamline amenity.
4. Wastewater Treatment Plants. Comprehensive sewage treatment and disposal for Mundaring's highly undulating landscape and widely dispersed settlements is not cost effective. It would require expensive pressure mains and lengthy pipe runs to suitable treatment and disposal sites. Accordingly, a number of small package treatment plants have been commissioned that discharge highly treated wastewater to local waterways. While these discharges are licensed to operate within controlled environmental limits, there is community concern that equipment failure and population creep could lead to adverse impacts on receiving waterways. The lack of cost-effective options for sewage treatment and finite capacities of existing systems have been cited as stifling further population growth and development opportunities.
5. Falling rates of community involvement have been observed for most of the shire's catchment groups. People reported that they have become increasingly time-poor and unable to commit as readily to volunteer opportunities.
6. Community engagement with riparian areasforeshore areas has been reported as lessening, partly as a consequence of pressures cited for point 5 above.
7. Climate uncertainty was seen as leading to two potentially adverse impacts on the shire's streamlines. This included the predictions of falling overall rainfall for the Perth environs leading to drying of riparian areasforeshore areas. Predictions of increasing frequencies of

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extreme weather and rainfall conditions have raised concerns over increased velocities of stormwater runoff and subsequent increases in erosion.

8. Gaps in integration and inconsistency of agency oversight was seen as sometimes leading to less-than-optimal implementation of policies and regulations applying to streamlines.

9. [Phytophthora dieback and Myrtle Rust](#)

2.5.2 LOCALISED ISSUES

There was some duplication of issues raised by representatives of the various Catchment groups or gleaned from websites and publications and these have been left here for completeness. Some issues are framed as actions and some interpretation has been applied accordingly.

Blackadder / Woodbridge Catchment Group

- Ecological corridors through urbanised areas are fragmented and require restoration.
- Invasive weeds need removal.
- Local species need to be established utilising local provenance seeds.
- Remnant vegetation needs additional protections and improved management.
- Catchment and waterways need to be protected through management and practices that consider Aboriginal heritage, recreation needs and accessibility.
- Awareness of local environmental issues needs to be raised.
- Environmentally sensitive planning needs to be advocated for development

~~Lower~~ Helena River Catchment Group

- Improved ecological connectivity on both sides of waterways.
- Better linkages between reserves along ~~riparian corridors~~[foreshore areas](#).
- Improved flow and erosion control on side tributaries entering the Helena R.
- Greater environmental flows down the main channel of the Helena R.
- Improved regulatory oversight of ~~riparian corridors~~[foreshore areas](#).
- Improved agency integration and consistency.

Jane Brook Catchment Group

- Better control of storm flows.
- Improved erosion control.
- Improved management of weeds.
- Greater community engagement and participation.
- Greater regulatory oversight.
- Improved agency coordination.
- More sensitive bushfire mitigation.

Susannah Brook Catchment Group

- More regeneration and rehabilitation for biodiversity.
- Greater connectedness of wildlife corridors.
- Improved stream water quality for fauna.
- Improved rubbish removal and less vandalism.
- More people involved and having ownership.
- Better integration with bushfire mitigation.

Wooroloo Brook Land Care ~~Group District Committee~~

Note: This group was inactive. Past representatives were interviewed.

- Salinity arising from eastern catchments needs controlling.
- Revegetation of gullies and recharge areas.
- Control of environmental weeds.
- Channel and bank erosion control.
- Improved mitigation against catastrophic wildfires which lead to massive erosion.
- Greater community engagement and involvement.

2.6 ISSUES PRIORITISATION

Issues raised during the community consultation and desktop research were brought together and prioritised, using [Intercom's RICE methodology](#) which is based on the following relationship:

$$\frac{\text{Reach} \times \text{Impact} \times \text{Confidence}}{\text{Effort}} = \text{RICE SCORE}$$

Reach was interpreted as the spatial extent of the issue, Impact was seen as the magnitude of adverse or beneficial changes arising, Confidence was seen as the reliability of predictions of impact and restoration, and Effort was seen as a combination of human, financial and logistical inputs required to manage the issue. Whilst this RICE approach required a level of expert-knowledge of the subject matter for its use, it did serve to invite participants to make explicit many of their implied assumptions.

The resulting streamline priorities included:

Priority 1 Better control of storm flows for erosion control.

Priority 2 Greater levels of regeneration and rehabilitation for biodiversity.

- Greater community engagement and involvement
- Better linkages between reserves.
- Improved bushfire mitigation along corridors to prevent catastrophic wildfires which severely damage vegetation, soil seed stores, soil fertility and stability and which can lead to accelerated erosion.
- Ecological corridors through urbanised areas are fragmented and require restoration.
- Better integration with bushfire mitigation.

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Detention basin industrial area 2002



Detention basin industrial area 2022



Riffle at Bugle Tree Creek 1999



Riffle at Bugle Tree Creek 2022



Road crossing Thornbury CI 1999



Road crossing Thornbury CI 2022

Picture plate 1: Photo pairs showing changes in watercourses from 1999 to 2020 (Early photos courtesy Jane Brook Catchment Group).



Picture plate 2: Examples of erosion and watercourse condition within the shire

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF RIPARIAN CORRIDORS FORESHORE AREAS

3.1 BACKGROUND

A significant amount of energy has been expended on the development of policies and regulations for the protection of riparian corridors foreshore areas. There is an extensive global literature on the topic describing many different situations and approaches. This brief review, rather than providing a comprehensive documentation of the range of applied policy instruments, has sought to describe those situations having some similarity to the social, biophysical and political environment of the Shire of Mundaring and its watercourses.

3.2 WHAT ARE RIPARIAN AREAS FORESHORE AREAS?

The answer to this question (Figure 1), is best summarised by the US National Academy Press:

“Lands next to water are fundamental to the livelihood of many species of plants and animals, including humans. Birds and other wildlife aggregate in riparian areas, often in great abundance. At the same time, society values riparian areas for production of food, access to transportation, opportunities for recreation, and natural scenic beauty” (NRC, 2002).

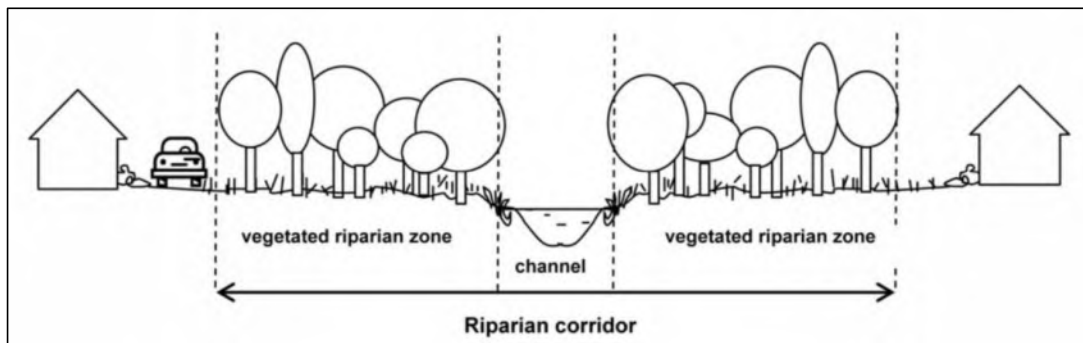


Figure 1 Riparian buffer extends both sides of streamlines

3.3 WHY PROTECT RIPARIAN AREAS FORESHORE AREAS?

The WA Waterways Commission provided a rationale:

“Protection and management of riparian areas is essential for maintaining healthy waterways and wetlands. Protected foreshores preserve aquatic, littoral and terrestrial habitat for native flora and fauna while providing amenity and maintaining scenic quality and landscape values. They also reduce the impacts of erosion, sedimentation and nutrient influx in waterways” (WRC, 2001b)

3.4 HOW DO ~~RIPARIAN AREAS~~FORESHORE AREAS FUNCTION?

The NSW DPI's Office of water (NSWDPI, 2012), described the functioning of ~~riparian corridors~~foreshore areas:

- providing bed and bank stability and reducing bank and channel erosion;
- protecting water quality by trapping sediment, nutrients and other contaminants;
- providing diversity of habitat for terrestrial, ~~riparian-foreshore~~ and aquatic plants (flora) and animals (fauna);
- providing connectivity between wildlife habitats;
- conveying flood flows and controlling the direction of flood flows;
- providing an interface or buffer between developments and waterways; and,
- providing passive recreational uses.

The protection, restoration or rehabilitation of vegetated ~~riparian corridors~~foreshore areas is important for maintaining or improving the shape, stability (or geomorphic form) and ecological functions of a watercourse and bigger is better. Wider corridors provide greater protection for streamline ecological processes.

3.5 HOW WIDE SHOULD PROTECTED ~~RIPARIAN CORRIDORS~~FORESHORE AREAS BE?

A ~~riparian corridor~~foreshore area consists of the channel which comprises the bed and banks of the watercourse (to the highest bank) and the two sides of the Vegetated Riparian Zone (VRZ) adjoining the channel (Figure 1). It has been recommended that multiple factors such as the biophysical conditions (WRC, 2001b, NSWDPI, 2012, WRC, 2001a) of the streamline, and the nature of the management requirements (NSWDPI, 2018, Price, 2004, Lovett, 2007), should combine to determine the width of protected ~~riparian corridors~~foreshore areas (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1 ~~Riparian-Foreshore area~~corridor widths in NSW based on stream order (NSWDPI, 2012)

Watercourse type	VRZ width ^a (m)	Total RC width (m)
1st order	10	20 m + channel width
2nd order	20	40 m + channel width
3rd order	30	60 m + channel width
4th order and greater ^b	40	80 m + channel width

VRZ width^a = Vegetated Riparian Zone each side of watercourse

Greater^b = includes estuaries, wetlands and any parts of rivers influenced by tidal waters

Table 2 National ~~riparian corridor~~ foreshore area widths based on management objectives (Lovett, 2007)

Management objective	Bank width (m)	Total Corridor width (m)
Improve water quality	10 vegetated plus 5-10 grass strip	2 times 15 + channel width
Reduced stream bank erosion	Minimum width 5 Bank height 4 Erosion rate $0.2 \times 20 = 4$ Therefore Total = 13	2 times 13 + channel width
Maintaining natural light and temperature regime in streams	2 to 3 tree or tall shrub widths = (5 to 20)	2 times (5 to 20) + channel width
Provide food inputs and aquatic habitat	2 to 3 tree or tall shrub widths = (5 to 20)	2 times (5 to 20) + channel width
Provide terrestrial habitat	10 for small animals 50 for large animals	2 times (10 to 50) + channel width
Preventing stock damage	5 to 20	2 times (5 to 20) + channel width
Riparian areas <u>Foreshore areas</u> to enable agricultural production	10 to 30 wide with 20 times that length	2 times (10 to 30) + channel width
Land clearing for agricultural or urban development	20 to 200	ACT – various, NSW 20, Vic – 30 NT - various, SA – various Qld – 1°-2° >50, 3°-4° >100, 5°+ >200

~~3.6 IMPACTS ON MUNDARING'S WATERCOURSES~~

~~The continuing demand for additional land for housing, industrial development and associated infrastructure necessitated by population increases, exerts significant pressure on naturally vegetated areas along watercourses. These areas may be impacted directly by clearing as part of urban expansion, as well as indirect impacts through human disturbance within riparian corridors, fragmentation of patches and the introduction of weed and pest vectors.~~

~~These direct and indirect pressures on naturally vegetated riparian areas have in many areas, compromised the natural functioning of riparian areas.~~

3.67 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREFERRED ~~RIPARIAN BUFFERS~~ FORESHORE AREAS

The DWER recommends a ~~flexible approach~~ site specific criteria based approach to identifying riparian buffer widths, rather than simply adopting 'standard' widths. Historically, a width of 30 m for waterways and 50 m for estuaries was generally applied. The use of standard widths did not allow for negotiation of narrower or wider foreshore widths where this was appropriate in specific cases.

Operational policy 4.3 is the State government policy on waterway foreshores (DoW 2012). This is described in more detail in Section 5. The recommended method for determining foreshore widths in WA is based on site-specific biophysical criteria (WRC 2001a). The biophysical criteria include: vegetation, hydrology, soil type, erosion risk, geology, topography, function, habitat, climate change impacts, heritage and the risks from the proposed adjacent land use. The criteria are a means of assessing the features, functions, values of and risks to the waterway.

A width of 30 m for waterways and 50 m for estuaries (including the estuarine reaches of rivers) could be considered as a general baseline to which additional width is added when needed based on specific features, functions, values or to mitigate specific risks. A watercourse hierarchy approach that considers size, flow volumes and position in the catchment helps fine-tune the application of regulations. Sometimes the appropriate width may be much greater than the general baseline. For example, for a high-value pristine or near-pristine river with threatened species, where logging is proposed nearby, an appropriate foreshore/buffer width might be 100 m. For a small degraded creek in a paddock, 15-20 m revegetated foreshore either side may be adequate. Note that 10 m is allowed for edge effects, so this should always be added to the width of intact riparian foreshore area vegetation (Advice for Section 2.6 was provided by the DWER's R Lynch pers com 2022).

A watercourse hierarchy approach helps:

- establish clear and appropriate guidelines on the width of ~~riparian corridors~~ foreshore areas
- provide greater flexibility in urban design by allowing a broader range of uses in ~~riparian corridors~~ foreshore areas, including detention basins, cycleways, roads and recreational areas
- enable works and activities to be offset along the length of a ~~riparian corridor~~ foreshore area
- provide greater flexibility with watercourse crossing design
- remove the need for vegetated buffers in addition to a ~~riparian zone~~ foreshore area
- introduce a streamlined assessment approach so that compliant proposals can be assessed more quickly.

4 IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON STREAMLINE PROCESSES

4.1 RUNOFF

Clearing native vegetation and establishing rural and urban land uses, has a significant impact on the water balance and on the nature of catchment hydrologic processes. Development leads to an increase in impervious areas in the urban form and the land surface in agricultural areas becomes more impervious because of stock or mechanical compaction. In these situations, rainfall no longer soaks into the ground as readily as before and this results in an increase in the volume and velocity of runoff, particularly during peak flow storm events on wetted catchments.

In addition, extensive networks of artificial drainage are routinely constructed to remove stormwater from land surfaces into receiving waterways as quickly as possible. In addition to preventing unacceptable levels of flooding, this approach has led to drainage networks that maximise local convenience and protection, without adequately considering off-site damage from accelerated flow, water pollution, or even the loss of the water resource. Other problems include increased channel erosion and downstream flooding, deposition of sediment, and a resulting loss of property, wildlife habitat and natural vegetation.

4.2 SEDIMENT TRANSPORT

In their natural state, particulate solids in streams are regulated substantially by the ~~riparian foreshore area~~ vegetation. Removal or damage to vegetative cover has been found to increase the delivery of particulate solids to receiving waterways.

In an undeveloped area, a natural stream normally adjusts so that its cross section and bed slope are in approximate equilibrium, with sub-critical flows of $<0.6 \text{ msec}^{-1}$ being dominant. Increased volumes of stormwater runoff brought about by clearing and hardening of the catchment typically reach super-critical velocities in excess of 0.8 msec^{-1} , which entrain sediments (erosion) and produce significant changes in the natural stream channel. More frequent high-flow events and flooding can cause bank and streamline erosion, damage and disrupt ecological processes of ~~riparian areas~~~~foreshore areas~~ and damage adjacent property, and infrastructure. Increases in peak velocities and increasing frequency of larger flows following development may also have implications for the processing and recycling of organic carbon and nutrients within ~~riparian areas~~~~foreshore areas~~.

Accelerated channel erosion can also create downstream damage by the deposition of eroded sediment. Lakes reservoirs and estuaries fill, stormwater pipes and culverts become clogged causing localised flooding and areas adjacent to streams may become covered with mud and debris and weed seeds left after each flood. Processes leading to the remobilization of sediments from upstream reaches of a waterway may, through time, lead to adverse impacts on downstream water quality and damage ~~riparian areas~~~~foreshore areas~~.

Suspended solids loadings to receiving wetlands and estuaries are likely to adversely impact on biota in a number of ways including physical smothering, increased light attenuation and changes to dissolved oxygen fields if the suspended solids contain a significant proportion of refractory organic matter. Physical smothering results when the loading of suspended solids settling onto

benthic organisms exceeds their clearance rates. For benthic plant communities this may reduce photosynthesis, and for suspension feeders, this may interfere with modes of feeding.

The accumulation of sediment in watercourses may also reduce the available habitat for instream flora and fauna.

4.3 NUTRIENT TRANSPORT

Clearing for urban and agricultural development, combined with the application of artificial fertilizers have been responsible for nutrient enrichment of many Australian estuaries (Deeley, 1999). Nutrients may be discharged to receiving estuaries and wetlands as dissolved or particulate forms, and significant amounts of these inputs are potentially biologically available given appropriate hydrodynamic processes, settling, resuspension and uptake mechanisms (Deeley, 1996).

Recent research undertaken in the southwest of WA (Weaver, 2014, McKergow, 2006a, McKergow, 2006b, Weaver, 2021) compared catchment-scale nutrient loss and attenuation rates from streams without or with vegetated ~~riparian corridors~~foreshore areas. Low order streams were found to have the highest nutrient and sediment concentrations and were more dominated by surface runoff. These lower order or smaller watercourses therefore represent the best opportunity to attenuate nutrients and sediment.

For surface flow and hill-slope erosion-dominated streams (like much of the Mundaring Shire), vegetated ~~riparian buffers~~foreshore areas provided an effective means of reducing suspended solids SS (*i.e.* reducing erosion) (McKergow, 2003) and P transport, consistent with findings for soils with very high P-binding capacities (*i.e.* silts, loams, clays).

Stormflow into the Swan River from rural areas particularly on the coastal plain has long been recognised as a major source of nutrient pollutants. Efforts to date to reduce these nutrients have largely been unsuccessful (OAGWA, 2014). Experience elsewhere shows that it is possible to improve the health of rivers in urban areas, but it requires concerted and coordinated effort by the overwhelming majority of stakeholders, and long-term action. Success was found to depend upon state agencies, local governments and the private sector being aware of and acknowledging what needs to be done and in widespread implementation of restorative solutions (OAGWA, 2014).

4.4 ARE ~~RIPARIAN BUFFERS~~FORESHORE AREAS EFFECTIVE FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT?

(Weaver, 2014) raised concerns about the effectiveness of ~~riparian buffers~~foreshore areas for achieving nutrient reductions where there is a high probability of very high levels of P export such as on the Swan Coastal Plain. The cost-effectiveness of a range of agricultural productivity and stream restoration measures has recently been estimated (Figure 2). The left hand diagram with the orange circles represents sandy areas subject to P transport by subsurface transport mechanisms (leaching) and the right hand diagram with green circles represents areas dominated by surface flows such as the Shire of Mundaring. Management measures at the lower left of both diagrams have the least probability of success. Conversely, measures in the top right of the diagrams have the greatest chance of success.

These diagrams suggest that riparian buffers/foreshore areas and associated grass filter strips are successful at enhancing habitat quality, at attenuating erosion and sediment-bound nutrients where surface runoff is the dominant flow mechanism. Despite their many benefits however, riparian buffers/foreshore areas may be less effective at attenuating P where sub-surface flows dominate.

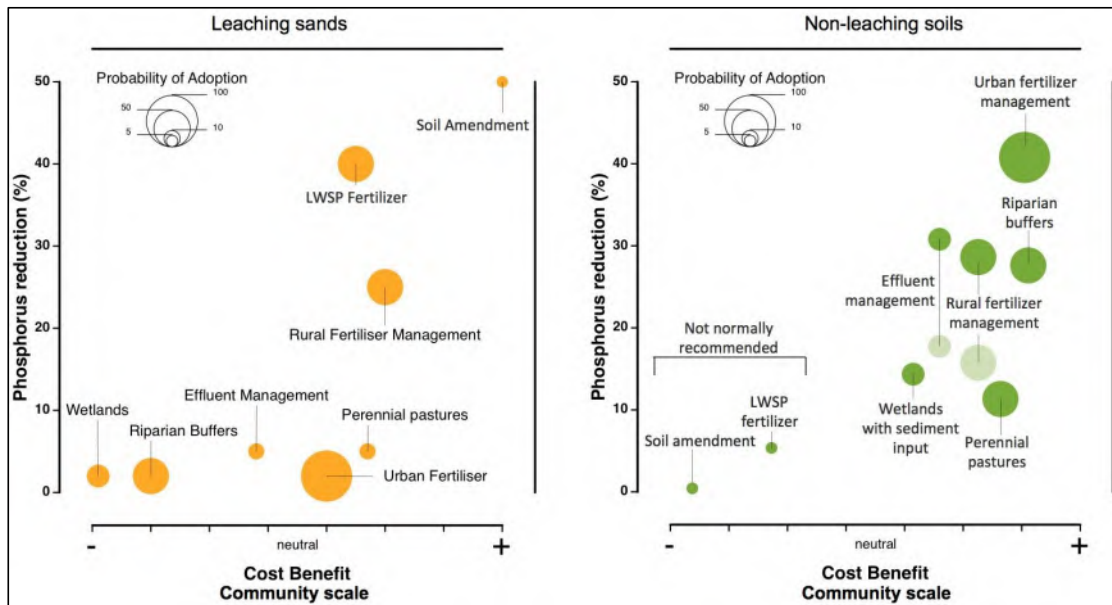


Figure 2 Estimated cost-effectiveness of nutrient management measures Note: coastal plain orange, Mundaring Shire green

4.5 IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATION TO THE SHIRE OF MUNDARING

Riparian buffers/Foreshore areas and associated grass filter strips are successful at enhancing habitat quality and attenuating erosion and sediment-bound nutrients where surface runoff is the dominant flow mechanism such as for Mundaring Shire east of the Ridge Hill Shelf.

4.6 IMPACTS ON MUNDARING’S WATERCOURSES

The continuing demand for additional land for housing, industrial development and associated infrastructure necessitated by population increases, exerts significant pressure on naturally vegetated areas along watercourses. These areas may be impacted directly by clearing as part of urban expansion, as well as indirect impacts through human disturbance within foreshore areas, fragmentation of patches and the introduction of weed and pest vectors.

These direct and indirect pressures on naturally vegetated foreshore areas have in many areas, compromised the natural functioning of foreshore areas.

5 LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR RIPARIAN CORRIDORS/FORESHORE AREAS IN AUSTRALIA

5.1 LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS - WA

Protection of Lands, Waterways and Foreshore areas in WA is enabled by a number of Legislative Acts administered by a range of NRM and Planning agencies (Appendix 1). The following Section documents the range of legislation and requirements that may apply to landholdings and provide an understanding of how current legislative, policy, and voluntary frameworks guide property and environmental management and the role of government agencies in administering it.

There are several considerations relevant to land management, and water resource management in Catchments of the Mundaring Shire, for which a range of legislation, policies, and regulations apply. The key considerations are:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) of Native Vegetation
- Threatened Species (Flora and Fauna) and Ecological Communities (Commonwealth listed)
- Threatened Species (Flora and Fauna), Ecological Communities and Threatening processes (State listed)
- Priority Ecological Communities (State listed)
- Areas mapped as potential fauna habitat (Fauna Habitat Zones, DBCA)
- Waste and emissions including discharges
- Contaminated sites
- Clearing of native vegetation
- Wetlands
- Ecological linkages
- Water Resources Management
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Aboriginal Affairs) Sites and Other Heritage Places
- Soil Conservation
- Land drainage and Acid Sulphate Soils
- Government Sewerage Policy.
- Swan Canning Development Control Area

5.24 LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS - EASTERN STATES

There are a range of different approaches being used across Australia including (Lovett, 2007):

5.24.1 ACT

Under the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, through the *Territory Plan 2002*, land fronting the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo rivers are zoned river corridors and management must be consistent with their respective Management Plan. For other rural land that goes to the water edge, a section of the lease Land Management Agreement will address the management of the [riparian zone/foreshore area](#). Failure to comply with a Land Management Agreement will incur a penalty.

5.24.2 NEW SOUTH WALES

Under the *NSW Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*, clearing is generally not permitted within 20 metres of the bed or bank of a stream or any part of a lake. Areas within 20 metres can be cleared only in accordance with development consent, or, if permitted, under a regional vegetation plan. Advice is generally site-specific.

5.24.3 NORTHERN TERRITORY

Under the *NT Water Act 1992*, any interference with a waterway or obstruction of flow requires a permit. A clearing application must include details of [riparian-foreshore area](#) vegetation and the *Land Clearing Guidelines 2002*, Resource Management Guidelines for the Northern Territory, Technical Report 27/2002 recommends buffer widths according to the nature and order of the waterway. To avoid erosion during activities such as construction, disturbance of banks should be kept to a minimum. In severe cases, legislative provisions under the *Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act 1980*, can be enacted to help protect sensitive areas.

5.24.4 QUEENSLAND

The *Queensland State Policy for Vegetation Management on Freehold Land 2000* (Department of Natural Resources and Mines) requires that 50 metres each side of first and second order streams (gullies and small streams) be left uncleared, 100 metres each side of third and fourth order (mid-sized) streams, and 200 metres each side of fifth order and larger streams (rivers).

5.24.5 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Under the *SA Water Resources Act 1997, Watercourses Section 9 Permits*, (Fact Sheet 27), a permit is required to alter a waterway in any way. Staff from the local natural resources management agency can provide advice about the width of [riparian-foreshore area](#) that should be protected and the appropriate plant species to be used in the process. Where possible, the [riparian zone/foreshore area](#) should be fenced off if stock are on the property. [Riparian-Foreshore area](#) vegetation is recommended to:

- slow overland movement of water allowing the settling of soil before water enters a watercourse, thereby reducing sediment deposits into the watercourse;
- slow flood waters;
- stabilise watercourse banks, reducing erosion;
- provide shade to watercourse to reduce water temperature and algal blooms; and
- provide habitat for animals living on land and in the water.

5.24.6 TASMANIA

The *Tasmania Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, (Wetlands and Waterway Schedule)* has variable widths, depending on the particular Planning Scheme, which, in turn, has to be consistent with State Policies. However, removing vegetation within 30 metres of the outer boundary of permanent wetlands, waterway or shoreline or estuary is generally prohibited. Local government Planning Schemes must be consistent with Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System.

5.24.7 VICTORIA

Under the *Victoria Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a permit is required where proposed activity is within 30 metres of a watercourse.

5.2 LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS – WA

Protection of Lands, Waterways and Riparian corridors in WA is enabled by a number of Legislative Acts administered by a range of NRM and Planning agencies (Appendix 1). The following Section documents the range of legislation and requirements that may apply to landholdings and provide an understanding of how current legislative, policy, and voluntary frameworks guide property and environmental management and the role of government agencies in administering it.

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- Waste and emissions including discharges
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- Clearing of native vegetation
- Wetlands
- Ecological linkages
- Water Resources Management
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Aboriginal Affairs) Sites and Other Heritage Places

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- ~~• Soil Conservation~~
- ~~• Land drainage and Acid Sulphate Soils.~~

5.3 HOW ARE FORESHORE AREAS IDENTIFIED?

DWER's Operational policy 4.3 - Identifying and establishing waterways foreshore areas requires that after defining catchment boundaries and streamlines at an appropriate scale, the next step is in defining the foreshore area with the appropriate level of precision (DoW, 2012). This includes:

- Indicative foreshore area at a regional level;
- Refined foreshore area at the district planning level if risks are low and there are no significant site constraints; and,
- Final foreshore area if the risks are high, there are significant site constraints and if detailed district structure planning is being undertaken. Final foreshore area at the local planning level, or at the district level if the risks are high, there are significant site constraints and if detailed district structure planning is being undertaken.

A foreshore area that has been defined appropriately will:~~A foreshore area that has been designed appropriately will:~~

- allow compatible land uses and related development activities to occur
- maintain or improve the functions, services and biological and physical features of the waterway
- enable future restoration when restoration is recommended for degraded waterways. This may include restoring meanders in a straightened waterway.

5.3.1 PRIORITISATION STEPS

There are three steps to prioritising of management:

- Conservation precedes rehabilitation.
- Mimic 'natural' behaviour of waterway to minimise maintenance and be cost-effective.
- Consider more difficult tasks – often sustained period of readjustment, inordinate expense without corresponding substantive outcomes and impacts on community confidence in terms of waterway management effort.

While decision making on actual management will be through consultative processes with wide ranging agendas, rigour needs to be applied to procedures to determine priorities for protection and management of watercourses. Emphasis should be on return for dollars spent, working at sites with a high likelihood of success and prove sound management following a strategy that meets biophysical, socio-economic and environmental terms.

5.3.2 STREAM BUFFER WIDTHS

The following should be considered in developing stream buffer widths:

- Geology, geomorphological processes, soil types;
- Topography (elevation and landscape units) – allowing for retention, peak flows and erosion/accretion events, hydrology and rate/variation in discharge – river processes;
- Slope, valley confinement, channel geometry, channel shape; and,
- Hydrogeology – protection of hilltop springs and Surface and groundwater interactions.
- protection of flora and fauna, critically endangered, threatened, May not be consistent with standardised buffer widths.
- Original vegetation persistent or significantly altered, major species, groundcover, linkages, riparian foreshore area/aquatic interactions
- Fauna distribution, rarity, diversity
- Aquatic ecosystems – persistent flora, fauna, distribution, movement, location of refuge pools and maintaining aquatic connectivity
- Nutrient status
- Riparian Foreshore area condition and channel form
- Associated wetlands
- Ecological linkages

5.3.3 ADJACENT LANDUSE AND MANAGEMENT

Principles depend on percentage of the catchment that is hard stand, point source inflows, diffuse nutrient sources and relationship to stormwater inputs.

- Changes in land use patterns – rural transition to rural residential, to urban - residential, industrial, commercial;
- Changes in river form – geometry, geomorphology, natural and human induced;
- State protected lands – reserves, national parks, state forests, dams, weirs, reservoirs; • Freehold title; and,
- Waterway Crossings – impact on buffer widths.
- surrounding land uses may also generate point source pollution and the discharge of contaminants into waterways.

5.3.4 BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT

Management of bushfire risks needs to be considered when planning for vegetated riparian corridors foreshore areas. It is important the revegetation strategies do not exacerbate bushfire risks for adjoining built and habitable assets~~It is important the revegetation strategies do exacerbate bushfire risks for adjoining built and habitable assets~~. There can also be risk of increased sedimentation post fire if reserves too narrow.

Riparian vegetation is generally considered to have an extreme fire risk and require appropriate hazard separation distances. Consideration of bushfire risk management in accordance with State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas and the development of a bushfire management plan is likely to be required.

The implementation of fire breaks and turn arounds are to be planned in conjunction with community groups and minimise the impact on remnant vegetation and revegetation wherever possible.

5.4 STATE PLANNING POLICY 2.9

Draft State Planning Policy 2.9, Planning for Water, and associated Planning for Water Guidelines (DPLH, 2021a, DPLH, 2021b) provides guidance to decision-makers regarding integrated water resource and land use planning management; how land and water related provisions are implemented. The draft SPP 2.9 has status and will replace the following policies and guidance:

- 1) State Planning Policy 2.1 Peel-Harvey Coastal Plain Catchment
- 2) State Planning Policy 2.2 Gnangara Groundwater Protection
- 3) State Planning Policy 2.3 Jandakot Groundwater Protection
- 4) State Planning Policy 2.7 Public Drinking Water Source Policy
- 5) Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 ~~Water Resources- Planning for Water Guidelines (2021)~~
- 6) State Planning Policy 2.10 Swan-Canning River System
- 7) Better Urban Water Management
- 8) Government Sewerage Policy
- 9) Government Sewerage Policy Explanatory Guidelines.

The *Planning and Development Act 2005* empowers Local Planning Schemes with the same force and effect of the Act. This enables a scheme or strategy to make integrated land use and water resource policy.

The Planning and Development Act takes into consideration allied regulatory frameworks of agencies including the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Environmental Protection Authority, and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Swan River Trust and Water and Rivers Commission. Accordingly, SPP 2.9 and Planning for Water Guidelines outlines how water resource management should be integrated into the planning processes and, amongst other things, applies to the preparation of Local Planning Strategies.

The SPP 2.9 Guidance provides generic suite of management guidance for the preparation of the Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, the implementation of which is likely to be through pragmatic strategies and actions to improve waterways. These strategies and actions are to inform and interrelate with the Biodiversity Strategy and Public Open Space Strategy, the environmental components of the future Local Planning Strategy.

SPP 2.9 applies to all proposals, throughout the planning procedures, prepared and assessed under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. The essential policy outcome of significance for the Mundaring Watercourses Hierarchy Strategy is Parts 6.1 (ii) and (iv): to Protect.... and support healthy ecosystems through the:

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- (ii) protection of existing vegetation and or restoration of cleared or degraded vegetation, preferably with endemic species;
- (iv) maintenance of natural flows in waterways, groundwater levels and inundation of wetlands to sustain aquatic and terrestrial habitats through the delivery of appropriate stormwater and groundwater management systems.

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines and accordingly have been used to devise and apply strategic actions to the Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy:

- a) identify wetlands and their buffers and waterways and their foreshore areas and/or reserves;
- b) facilitate the transfer of wetland buffers and waterway foreshore areas to public ownership, where appropriate;
- c) retain and/or restore vegetation important for the long-term health of water resources within wetlands buffers and waterway foreshore areas with the restoration of vegetation should preferably using endemic species;
- d) where possible, maintain and restore ecological linkages;
- e) identify appropriate wetland buffers and foreshore areas to protect public health from mosquito borne diseases;
- f) ensure that land uses that have the potential to significantly alter the hydrological regime are managed to protect water resources and associated ecological and aquatic values.

5.4.1 VALUES

Guidance notes related to environmental social and cultural values foreshore areas should be planned with sufficient distance between the waterway and adjacent land use(s) to allow for:

1. unimpeded movement of floodwaters during large flood events;
- ~~2.~~ conservation of the waterway environment, including riparian foreshore area vegetation;
- ~~2-3.~~ ~~iii.~~ maintenance of the natural hydrology of the waterway;
- ~~3-4.~~ accommodation of elevated water levels and storm surges due to climate change;
- ~~4-5.~~ management of pests and weeds, specifically declared plants;
- ~~5-6.~~ public access and recreational use of the foreshore and the waterway, where appropriate;
- ~~6-7.~~ no new installation or placement of public utility infrastructure (for example electricity, gas and sewerage) or on-site wastewater management systems;
- ~~7-8.~~ views of the waterway from public places (the clearing of vegetation (or avoiding planting native vegetation) will not be justified to provide water views);
- ~~8-9.~~ rising river levels and storm surges;
- ~~9-10.~~ protection and enhancement of landscape and landform, where needed;
- ~~10-11.~~ adequate separation distance from disease vector and nuisance insects such as mosquitoes and midges; and
- ~~11-12.~~ no direct discharge of stormwater runoff and/or mobilised groundwater (via pipes and drains for example), consistent with the *Decision Process for Stormwater Management in Western Australia* (DWER 2017).

It is acknowledged that the management of mosquitoes/midges and other nuisance insects is dependent on minimising areas of stagnant water and maintaining restoration areas, in

addition to the implementation of adequate separation distances that are preferably vegetated.

5.4.2 STATE PLANNING POLICY 2.10: SWAN CANNING RIVERS

~~In regard to SPP 2.10: Swan Canning Rivers, this primarily relates to the Helena River area, this former policy stance under SPP 2.10 remains within SPP 2.9. Of particular interest to the Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy are considerations of:~~

- ~~• mobilisation of nutrients~~
- ~~• ecosystems and hydrological function~~
- ~~• channel disturbance~~
- ~~• aquatic and riparian vegetation~~
- ~~• foreshore reserves~~
- ~~• setbacks~~
- ~~• management strategies.~~

~~The State Planning Policy 2.10 recognises this risk and requires that ‘...developments must maintain or improve water quality’. The Metropolitan Region Scheme and the *Planning and Development Act* provides the Trust with a statutory role to assess and determine or provide advice on a range of development proposals. The MRS is one of the town planning schemes for land use in the Perth metropolitan area. The Trust’s advice is also sought under local town planning schemes and the Central Perth and Midland Redevelopment Schemes, administered by the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority.~~

~~The Trust provides binding advice to the Western Australian Planning Commission for developments that are on land within the Development Control Area or abutting the waters. It provides non-binding advice to the WAPC, local government and developers on land abutting the DCA or likely to affect waters in the DCA.~~

5.4.2.1 COMMENTARY

~~With reference to the above, of particular importance is the employment of SSP 2.9 with reference to Parts 6.1 (ii) and (iv) and the associated Guidelines.~~

5.5 SHIRE OF MUNDARING PLANNING SCHEME

Unlike most local authorities, the Shire of Mundaring’s Local Planning Scheme No. 4 has a series of related clauses that implement waterways management. These are:

- 5.7.5 Development requirements
- 5.7.6 Stormwater water provisions
- 5.7.7 Effluent disposal
- 5.7.9 Construction sites
- 5.7.12 Vegetation protection
- 5.7.14 Rehabilitation of land
- 5.8.1 Building envelope provisions

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- 5.8.2 Dams
- 6.6 Flood Prone Areas
- Part 6 - Special Control Areas (Water Catchment areas) and flood prone areas.

urbanplan examined the most significance clauses that stipulate mandatory requirements and offers the following commentary regarding implementation:

5.5.1 CLAUSE 5.7.5

Development requirements stipulate the minimum setback for all buildings and earthworks (including landfill) from the top of the bank of any watercourse shall be:

- a) That specified for a watercourse as given in a watercourse hierarchy and protection strategy; and
- b) in the absence of a specific setback, 20 metres in the Residential Zone and 30 metres in all other zones

Within that setback:

- native vegetation is to be retained
- natural water flow maintained
- measures to minimise runoff and erosion
- apply conditions of approval to require rehabilitation, ceding of land and conservation management.

5.5.2 CLAUSE 5.7.6

Subdivision and development shall employ best water management practices to affect the retention of stormwater within the development area to:

- minimise velocity and quantity of stormwater; and
- prevent sediment and pollution load.

5.5.3 CLAUSE 5.7.7

Clause 5.7.7 stipulates the requirements for the type of on-site effluent disposal, setbacks to waterways or sources and potential for additional setbacks where appropriate.

5.5.4 CLAUSE 5.7.9

Construction sites are required to minimise soil erosion, sedimentation and/or the degradation of any water resource and stipulate the management to be applied to a construction site.

5.5.5 CLAUSE 5.7.12

To reinforce the powers of clause 5.7.5, clause 5.7.12 prevents the destruction of native vegetation with the exception of lot within the required waterway setback.

5.5.6 CLAUSE 5.7.14

Clause 5.7.14 gives the Shire the powers to require an owner or occupier of any land to rehabilitate land in relation to soil erosion or dust, or the alteration of surface water flows

5.5.7 CLAUSE 5.8.1

Clause 5.8.1 enables the Shire to stipulate building envelope provisions across the various zones.

5.5.8 CLAUSE 5.8.2

There is a presumption against dam construction however regard shall be given to the maintenance of natural stream flow, under base flow (non- rain) conditions within the watercourse.

5.5.9 CLAUSE 6.6

Flood Prone Areas are defined by a Special Control Area planning mechanism and all building development or earthworks within Flood Prone Areas shall require planning approval and in ~~de~~going so may refuse or apply conditions.

5.5.9.1 COMMENTARY

In unison, the clauses of the Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (of same force and effect as the *Planning and Development Act*) give the Shire the lead statutory authority, the powers to stipulate and apply integrated waterways management to minimise soil erosion, sedimentation pollution and or the degradation of any water resource, ~~to~~ ~~part~~ Particularly within an identified setback currently set at 20 to 30 metres, whether it be by stipulation in a strategy or by condition approval.

What remains is establishing appropriate waterways or ~~riparian corridors~~ foreshore areas and appropriate stormwater detention mechanisms for various Strahler stream orders, employing best water management practices for urban or rural residential or rural land use (Refer section 6.0).

5.6 SHIRE OF MUNDARING LOCAL PLANNING STRATEGY

The Local Planning Strategy sets out the long-term planning directions for the Shire of Mundaring over the next ten to fifteen years, applies the wide range of applicable State, regional and local planning policies and strategies, and provides the rationale for the land use and development control proposals in Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

It is intended that the Local Planning Strategy will be read in conjunction with Local Planning Scheme No. 4 and vice versa. The Local Planning Strategy is to guide the operation of Local Planning Scheme No. 4. It is a requirement of the Scheme that, except to the extent of any inconsistency between the two, determinations under the Scheme are to be consistent with the Local Planning Strategy. Moreover, an adopted Local Planning strategy is taken to be a document to be taken into account when making determinations.

5.6.1 OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

The objectives and aims of this Local Planning Strategy relevant to the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy are:

Function of Local Planning Strategy

- a) to set out the long-term planning directions for the Shire of Mundaring
- b) to outline, interpret and, as appropriate, apply State and regional planning policies and strategies
- c) to provide the rationale for zones and reserves, Special Control Areas and other provisions of the Shire's accompanying Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

Key strategic objectives

- a) to set promote and support sustainable development within the Shire
- b) to protect, manage and enhance the environment.

Subsidiary aims and objectives

- a) to identify and respond to significant medium and longer-term challenges facing the Shire
- b) to manage development to actively contribute to the Shire's unique character and to protect and enhance its natural hills environment
- c) to protect and enhance key environmental assets
- d) to protect and manage biodiversity within the Shire and reduce threat to the diverse forms of life within the district
- e) to identify, enhance and preserve elements of cultural significance.

6 MOVING FORWARD: STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

6.1 CONTEXT

The following strategies and actions have been promulgated with reference to the SPP 2.9 Guidelines, namely:

- a) identify wetlands and their buffers and watercourses and their foreshore areas and/or reserves;
- b) facilitate the transfer of wetland buffers and waterway foreshore areas to public ownership, where appropriate;
- c) retain and/or restore **native** vegetation important for the long-term health of water resources within wetlands buffers and waterway foreshore areas with the restoration of vegetation should preferably using endemic species;
- d) where possible, maintain and restore ecological linkages;
- e) identify appropriate wetland buffers and foreshore areas to protect public health from mosquito borne diseases;
- h) ensure that land uses that have the potential to significantly alter the hydrological regime are managed to protect water resources and associated ecological and aquatic values. These proposed strategies and actions are supported by the current provisions in Local Planning Scheme No. 4, those being identified in section 5.3 above.

6.2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

6.2.1 STATE POLICY SAYS

State Planning Policy 2.9 states:

- Local Strategies should map all water resources within a local government, assign each type of resource a priority or hierarchy of significance and identify appropriate setbacks or buffers.
- Application of WSUD should be integrated early into the planning progress, preferably in the structure planning phase.
- Post development stormwater conditions should approximate predevelopment conditions.

~~6.2.2 BIODIVERSITY PRINCIPLE 1.1 STATES~~

~~Biodiversity and watercourse integrity should maintain and mitigation measures will be considered where the works cannot be designed or constructed to avoid impacts.~~

6.2.23 INTENDED APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT

The intended approach to Watercourses management includes:

- Map all waterways above stream order 3 and assign a hierarchy.
- Stormwater detention is an integral component of the urban and peri-urban landscape.
- Maintain stream biodiversity, waterway health and habitat values.
- Improve stream flow and ecological environments.
- Identify and implement setbacks to all watercourses.

6.2.4-3 KEY ISSUES AND THREATS INCLUDE

Altered stream environments accelerate erosion and nutrient loss.

Loss of biodiversity and damage to ecosystems occurs through:

- clearing for development
- habitat fragmentation
- introduction of invasive weeds.

~~Damage to ecosystems occurs through:~~

- uncontrolled wildfires
- inappropriate burning regimes.

6.2.5-4 WATERCOURSES HIERARCHY STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy comprise:

- Identify and map waterway and ecological corridors in defined catchments through urban and peri-urban areas that require restoration.
- Establish appropriate setbacks and buffers to waterways according to Strahler stream hierarchy and priority.
- Apply stormwater detention structures strategically throughout levels of the Strahler stream hierarchy.
- Design and install stormwater structures for areas with extensive areas of hardscape to manage flow velocities and volumes.
- Establish and protect waterway corridors to maintain ecological connectivity.
- Determine appropriate separation buffers for on-site wastewater apparatus.
- Manage bushfire fuel loads and invasive weed species within waterway corridors. Retrofit stormwater flow compensation structures to manage peak flow velocities where erosion has been observed.

6.3 GIS-BASED STREAMLINE ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING

A LiDAR system flown over the Shire filled gaps in spatial information and improved the resolution of some existing coverages. LiDAR, which stands for *Light Detection and Ranging*, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure distances to features on the Earth's surface. Many thousand of light pulses combined with other data recorded

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by the airborne system, generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. The LiDAR instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner and a specialized GPS positioning receiver fitted into airplanes or helicopters for acquiring LiDAR data over broad areas.

A high resolution digital elevation model (DEM) was constructed from the LiDAR data which facilitated the computer synthesis of a Strahler stream network. Small streams that have no tributaries are categorised as first order. The stream order only increases when two streams of the same category converge. A 9th order stream is only formed when two 8th order streams converge and so on. The hierarchy of streamlines described in this report was generated automatically by the Shire's GIS staff and provided to the consulting team. Automatically-generated spatial data are entirely reliant on the quality of the method of data gathering employed and the level of ground truthing used to verify and calibrate the output.

The automatically-derived data for the Shire were combined with a wide range of other spatial coverages provided by the Shire and State WALIS agencies. It is understood that there was only a limited amount of ground-truthing undertaken and resulting coverages can always benefit from additional calibration and verification. Accordingly, it should be appreciated that the 1st and 2nd order streams that are very small, were not included in the analysis presented here, because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., ≥3rd order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.

Strategic issues have been collated as a strategic overview (Figure 3). In addition to the spatial spread of streamline-related issues across the shire, this map also shows the main waterway sub-catchments within the Shire, the Strahler stream orders 3-9 for mid-sized and larger streams, Perth Biodiversity Priority areas and the shire's existing and proposed urban cells. Total 3-9th-order watercourse lengths by landcover zone have been included as Appendix 4.

A strategic outlook has been developed (Figure 4), based on recommended actions to address the identified issues within the Shire's current and evolving legislative, regulatory and policy framework. This figure also shows a clearer depiction of the Strahler streamlines and strategic directions for the various zones across the Shire. A cross-sectional elevation profile was developed for the Shire from the provided contours (Figure 5). This acts as a key for describing and identifying zones for the Strategic outlook (Figure 4), and also presents a conceptual stormwater and an erosion management strategy highlighting slope-zones. Slopes are the dominant factor driving stream flow velocities and hence erosive potential. The implementation of policies and actions to address the determined issues and opportunities, are discussed in more detail in Section 6.

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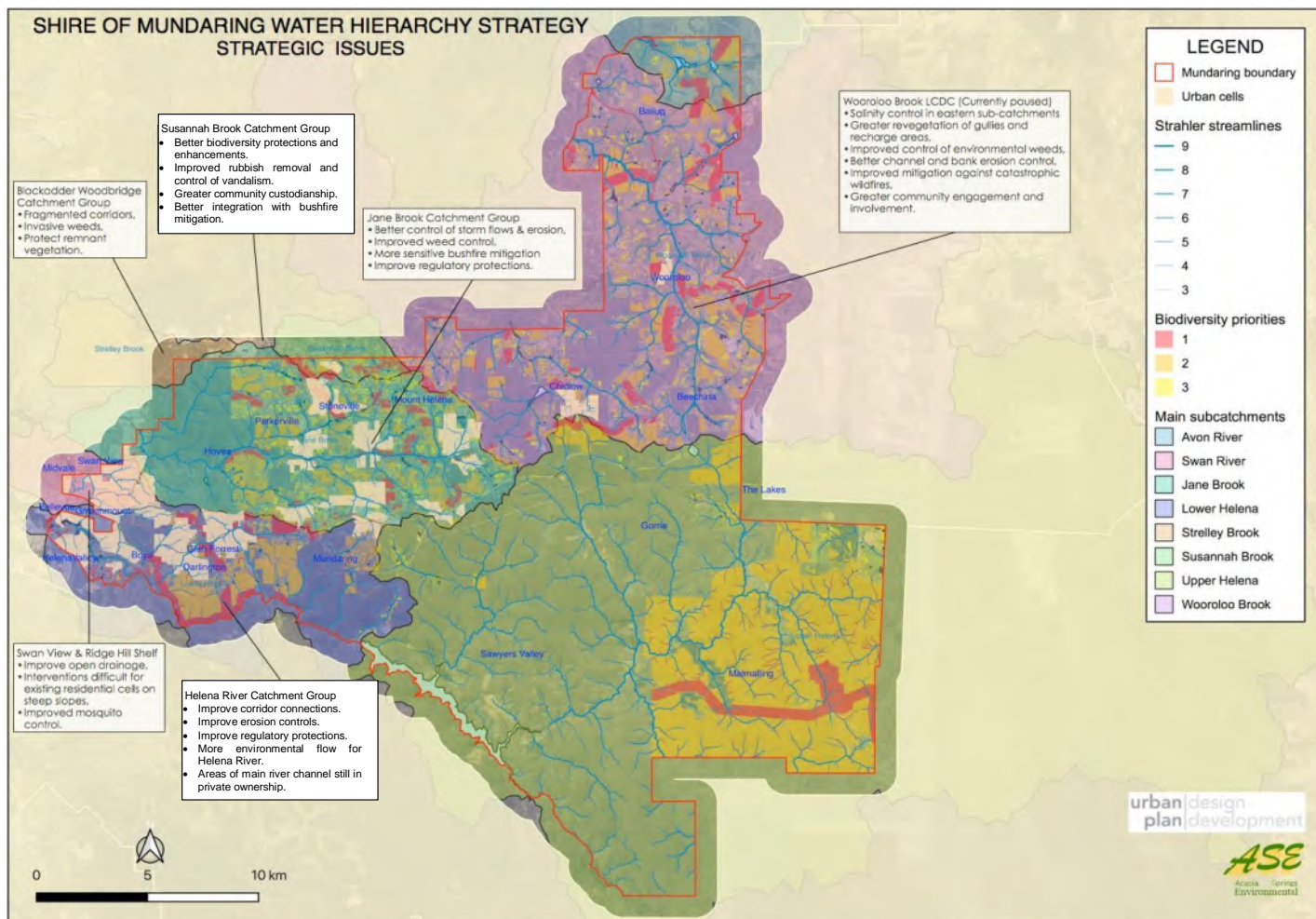


Figure 3 Strategic issues raised by community catchment group members and desktop research.

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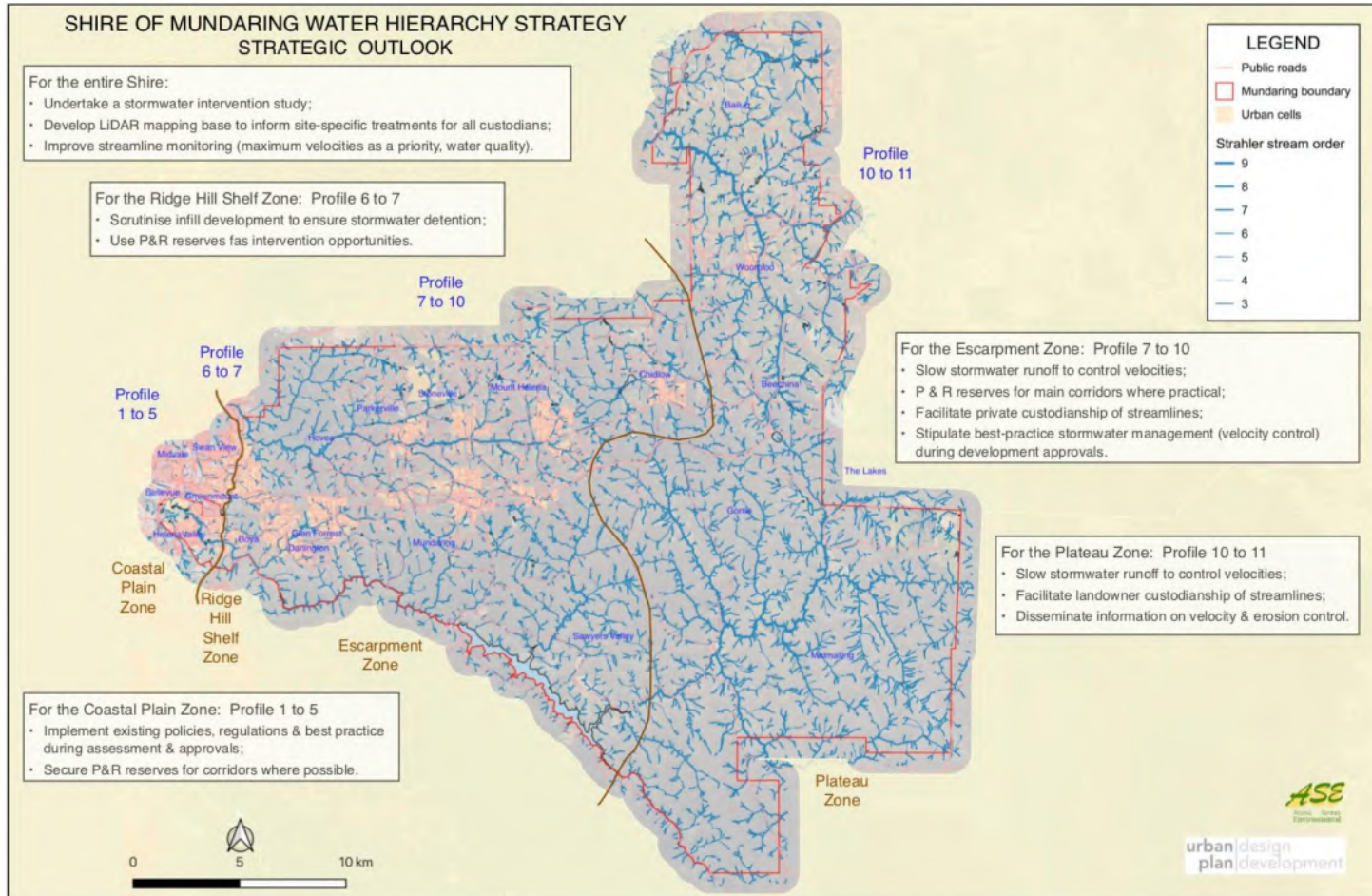


Figure 4 Strategic outlook for streamline management

Shire of Mundaring - Conceptual Erosion Control Strategy

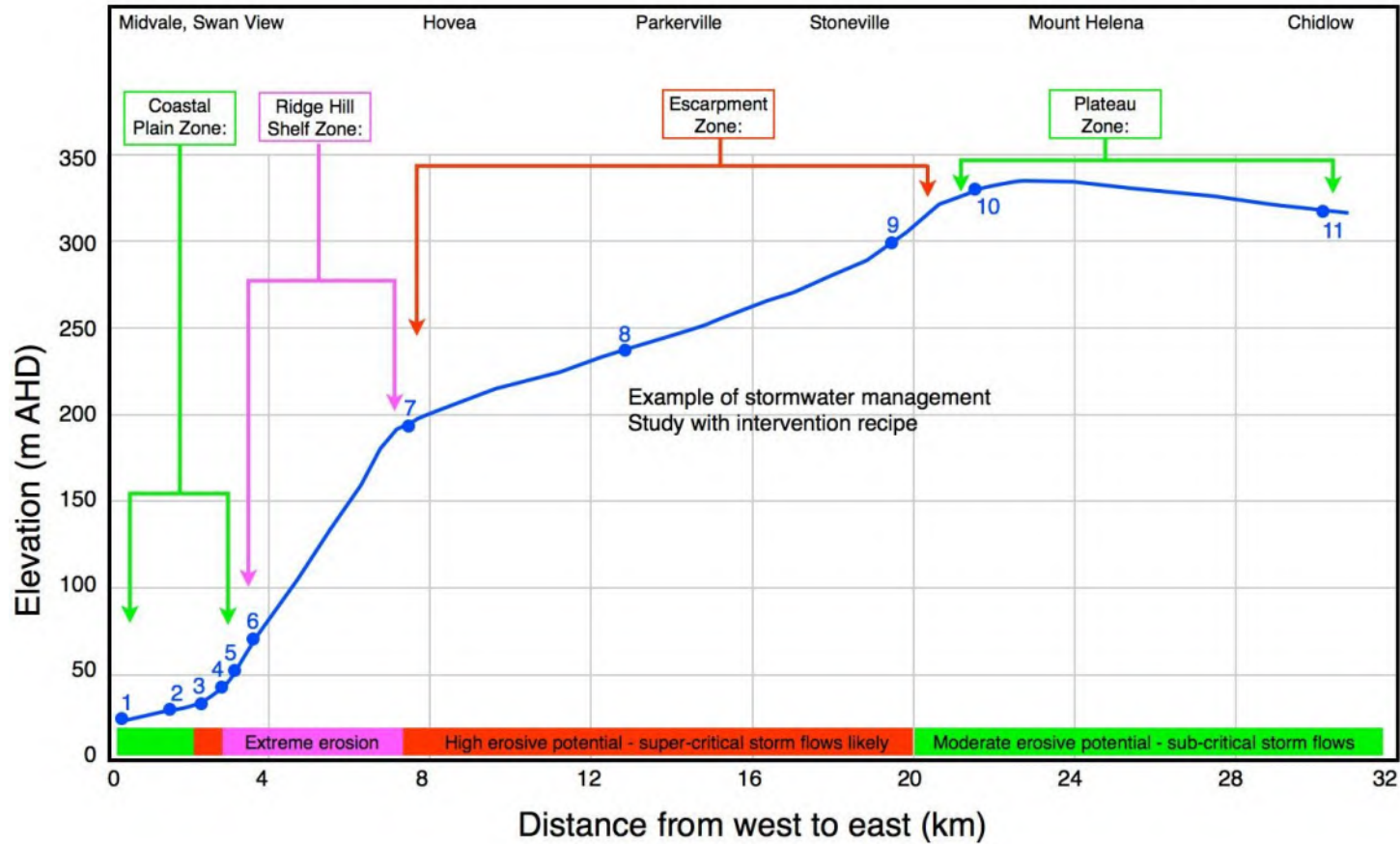


Figure 5 Profile through the shire and key to Strategic outlook diagram at Figure 4.

7 RECOMMENDED PRIORITISED AND ASSIGNED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

7.1 GENERIC PRINCIPLES

In consideration of the priorities derived during this investigation, this Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy for the Shire of Mundaring has in essence been distilled to:

1. Better control of storm flow peak-velocities across the shire for improved erosion control.
2. Greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas.
3. To better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities.
4. To provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and educate people living near to and visiting the shire's watercourses.
5. Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors.
6. To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements so as to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.

Five case studies were established across the shire to demonstrate where and how actions and activities might improve the ecological function and protections for watercourses and their corridors (Figure 6). The case studies were chosen to represent various locations and scales in order to appropriately address watercourse hierarchy issues across the shire.

These included:

- I. a range of WSUD best management practices at various scales targeted to Mundaring's topography and hydrological processes (Figures 7 to 11);
- II. Identification of locations to improve corridor biodiversity outcomes;
- III. Locations where multiple-agency outcomes need to be met;
- IV. Applying Strahler stream order classification to the watercourses and their associated buffers throughout the shire to help target protection and rehabilitation opportunities; and
- V. To provide a database of maps and geo-located photographs of issues and opportunities.

7.2 RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR VARIOUS CATCHMENT SITUATIONS (APPENDIX 5).

- Undertake a Stormwater Intervention Study.
- Develop and disseminate a LiDAR mapping data base to inform site specific stormwater treatments for all user groups.

In applying these principles, it is recommended the Shire of Mundaring implement the following strategies and actions:

7.2.1 WATER QUALITY

- Maintain Planning Scheme provisions that require proposals with the potential to impact on water quality to demonstrate that appropriate design, infrastructure and management regimes can manage water quality risks: Shire of Mundaring (SoM).
- Implement a new clause in the Planning Scheme to require Agriculture Intensive uses with high phosphorus export hazard or very low to low land capability undertake site specific soil and land capability assessment, including testing of soils for phosphorus buffering: SoM.
- Implement a new clause in the Planning Scheme requiring the preparation of a nutrient management plan for uses that propose irrigation with nutrient rich wastewater or fertigation to ensure uses are in accordance with Water Quality Protection Note No. 33 of DWER: SoM.

7.2.2 WATERWAY SETBACKS AND BUFFERS

When considering a proposed reduction to the setback stipulated under clause 5.7.5.1, the Shire shall have regard to the following:

- a) The nature and scale of the proposed land use and/or works.
- b) The potential for erosion as a result of any proposed works.
- c) The likely flow amount and frequency the watercourse receives.
- d) The type, extent and health of all existing native vegetation adjacent to the watercourse.
- e) Whether revegetation is required, and the types of species which should be used.
- f) Whether the watercourse has been historically modified or if the watercourse is in its natural state and alignment.
- g) The effluent disposal system location requirements of the Government Sewerage Policy.
- h) Whether any improvements are proposed which would improve the health of the watercourse or mitigate any impacts introduced by the development.
- i) Whether there are any implications for bushfire risk and, if applicable, achieving the BAL-29 rating for future development.
- j) Whether any livestock access to the foreshore exists, is proposed, or if there is the potential of this occurring.
- k) Whether the watercourse is on existing or proposed public open space, or on private property.

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- l) The zoning of the land and the possible future land uses within the locality.
 - m) Any adopted local planning policies and state planning policies.
 - n) Any recommendations in the Shire's adopted Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy.
 - o) Any other consideration the Shire considers appropriate.
- When considering a proposed reduction to the standard minimum setback of 100 m from watercourses for septic wastewater disposal apparatus (Department of Health) may be varied where it can be demonstrated that soils within the leach field have sufficient hydraulic permeability and P-retention characteristics. Soil amendment may be required.
 - The on-going management of watercourses on freehold land is embedded in planning approvals as per Local Planning Scheme No. 4 requirements.
 - Identify and map 20 metre and 30 metre watercourses setbacks in urban and peri-urban areas respectively and include in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy.
 - Protect and improve management of remnant vegetation in waterway corridors by empowering catchment groups and all landowners.
 - Identify and map important biodiverse rich areas and preclude inappropriate uses with a view to establishing Special Control Areas.

7.2.3 BUSHFIRE RELATED

- Ensure that the Shire's district level Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS) and mitigation targets adequately address:
 - bushfire fuel loads and invasive weed species within waterway corridors;
 - acceptable approaches to remnant vegetation restoration planning and management, as applied to waterway buffers and setbacks identified in the Local Planning Strategy: SoM.
 - the impacts of too frequent or infrequent and intense bushfires or prescribed burns on native vegetation.

Note: Native revegetation designed to maintain low bushfire risk (eg. plants less than 20cm height) is not usually compatible with foreshore improvement.

7.2.4 STORMWATER DETENTION

- Retrofit in-line and off-line stormwater treatment mechanisms to reduce erosion by peak storm velocities: SoM.
- Stormwater management systems should apply endemic vegetation to promote filtering, reduce velocity of stormwater runoff to approximate pre-development conditions: SoM and Proponent.

7.2.5 WATERWAY CORRIDOR VEGETATION

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- Revegetate gaps in '~~riparian zones~~foreshore areas' to reduce habitat fragmentations: SoM and Proponent.
- Replant sedges and rushes along gently sloping road drains to reduce erosion: SoM and Proponent.

7.2.6 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION:

- Establish and disseminate an electronic platform that creates a data base for the mapping of all related waterway corridor inputs. The purpose of the data base is to focus attention on stormwater intervention at the intersection of wildfire, public open space and biodiversity corridors.
- Disseminate information to the public describing the value and means of installing vegetated watercourses at all levels of the waterway hierarchy: SoM.
- Create an awareness and publicity campaign about implications of ecological corridor vandalism and benefits of rubbish removal: SoM
- Incentivise greater community participation and custodianship in waterway and ecological corridor management by prioritising Officer site visits for waterway custodians: SoM
- Create feedback loop on Shire Webpage to obtain the location of observed invasive weed infestations and occurrence of erosion: SoM and Catchment Groups.

7.2.7 CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Approach Aboriginal Elders for advice and involvement in their cultural heritage approach to watercourses and ecological corridor management, and bushfire management: SoM.

7.2.8 PREVIOUS STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS

Of the previous strategic considerations for inclusion into the Watercourses Hierarchy Strategy is the following provision:

- Include the Helena River Salinity Situation Statement into Local Planning Scheme No. 4, matters to be taken into account, in determining applications for planning approval within the Mundaring Weir Catchment.

7.2.9 COMMENTARY

As empowered by the provisions of Local Planning Scheme No. 4, we recommend that:

- the above strategies and actions become part of the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy;
- cross fertilize these strategies with those in the Biodiversity and Public Open Space Strategies; and
- be implemented by way of inclusion in the future review of the Local Planning strategy to give force and effect.

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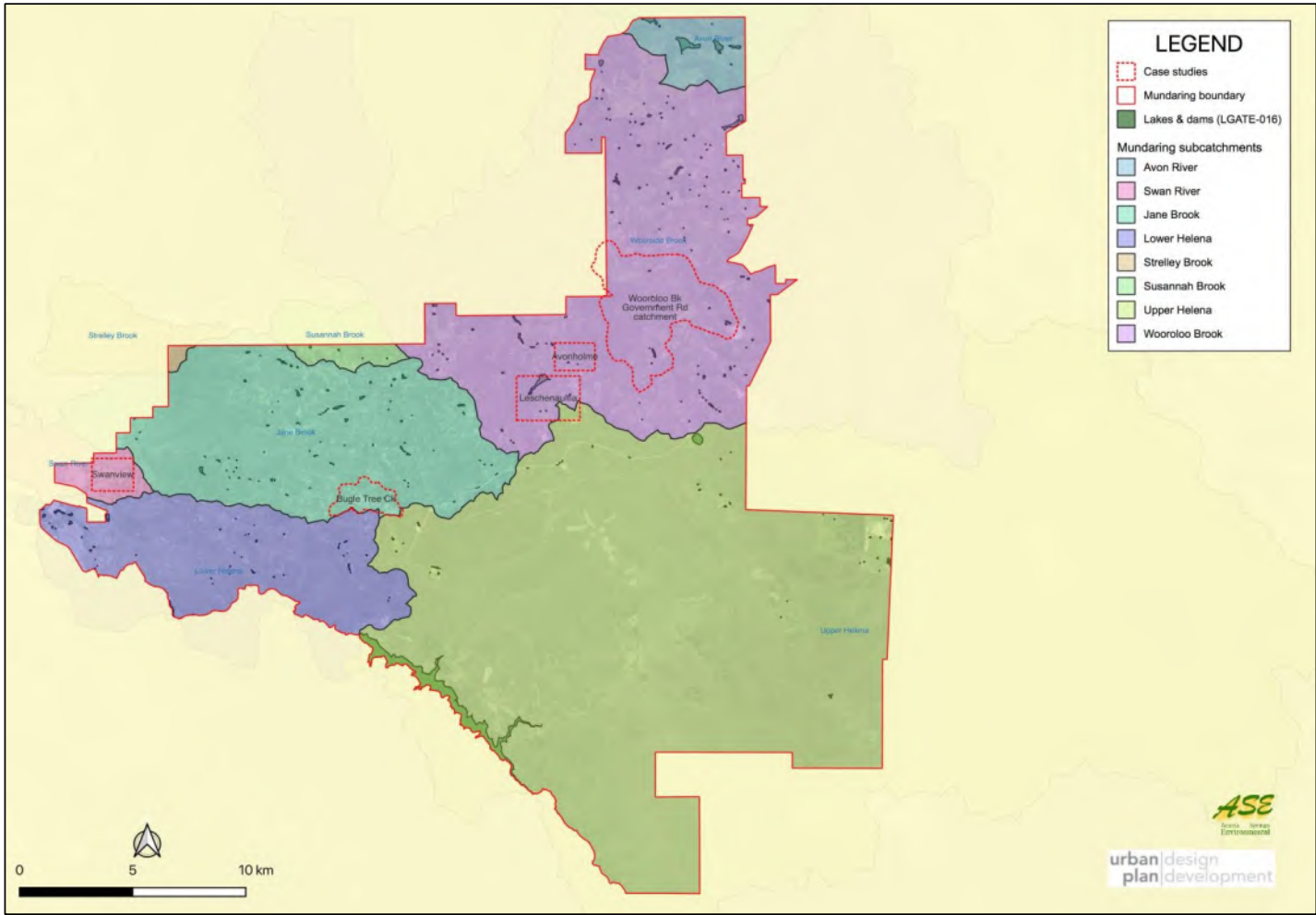


Figure 6 Location of case example areas

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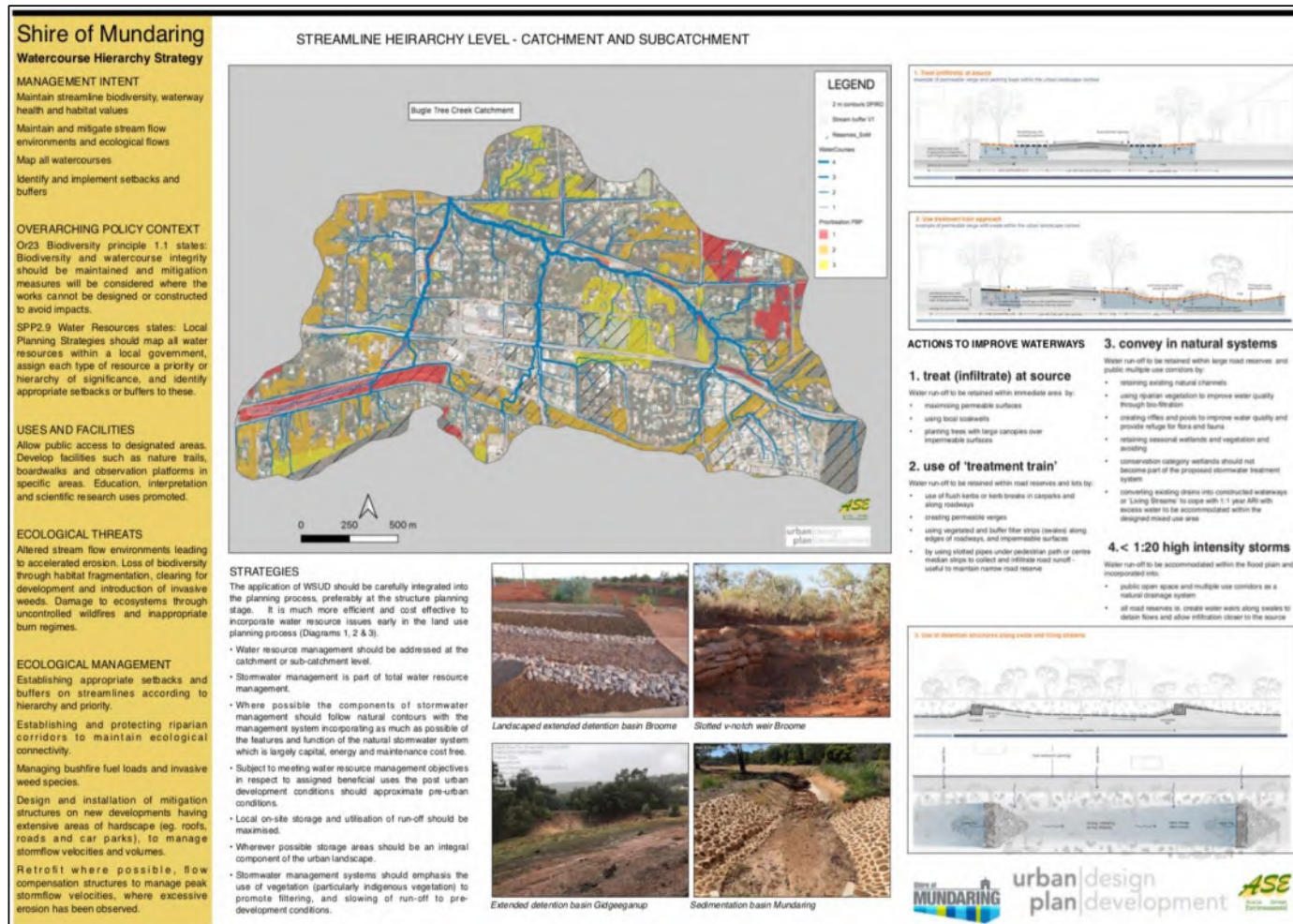


Figure 7 Catchment-scale watercourse management measures – Bugle Tree Creek

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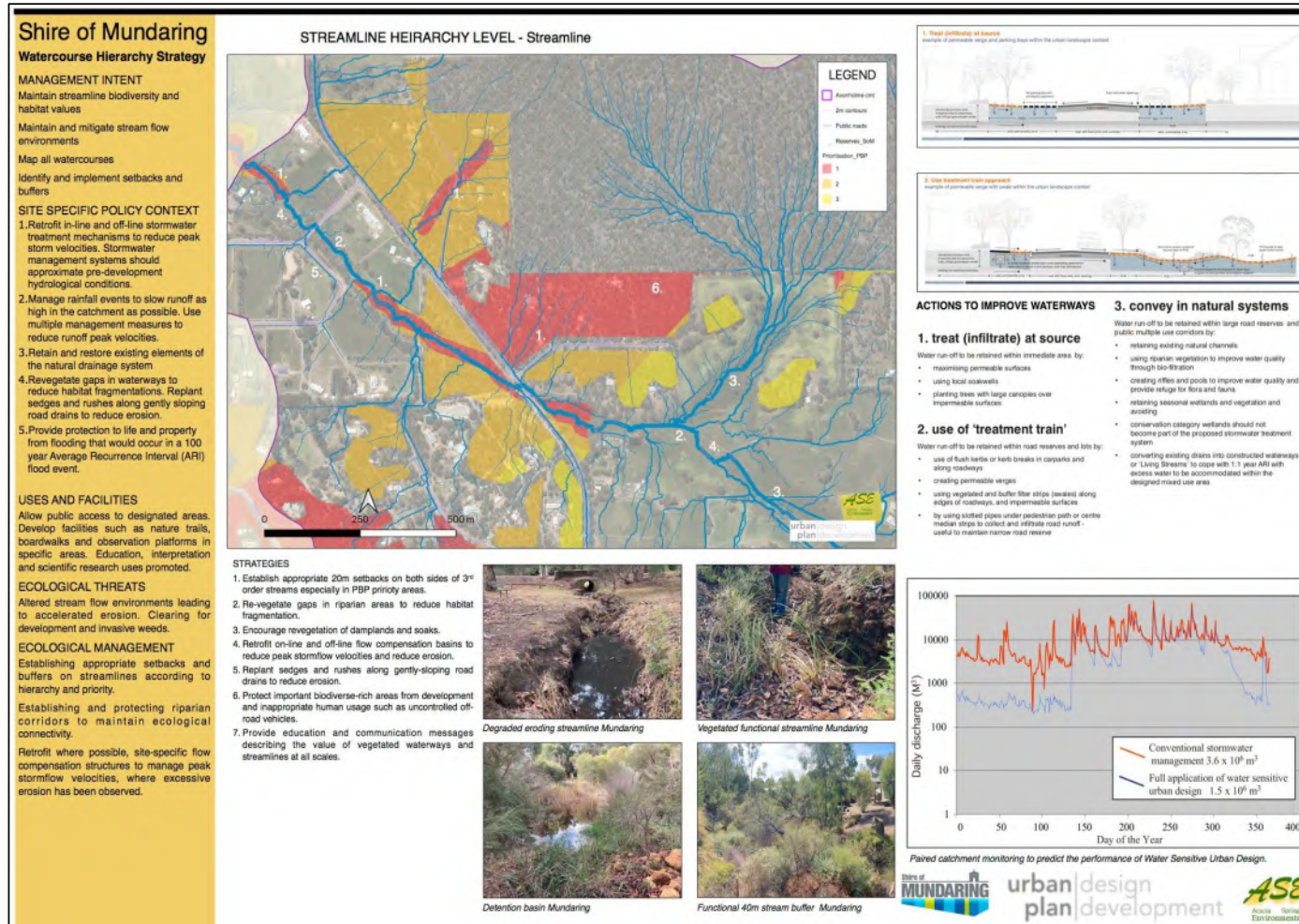


Figure 8 Watercourse management measures for the Avonholme precinct

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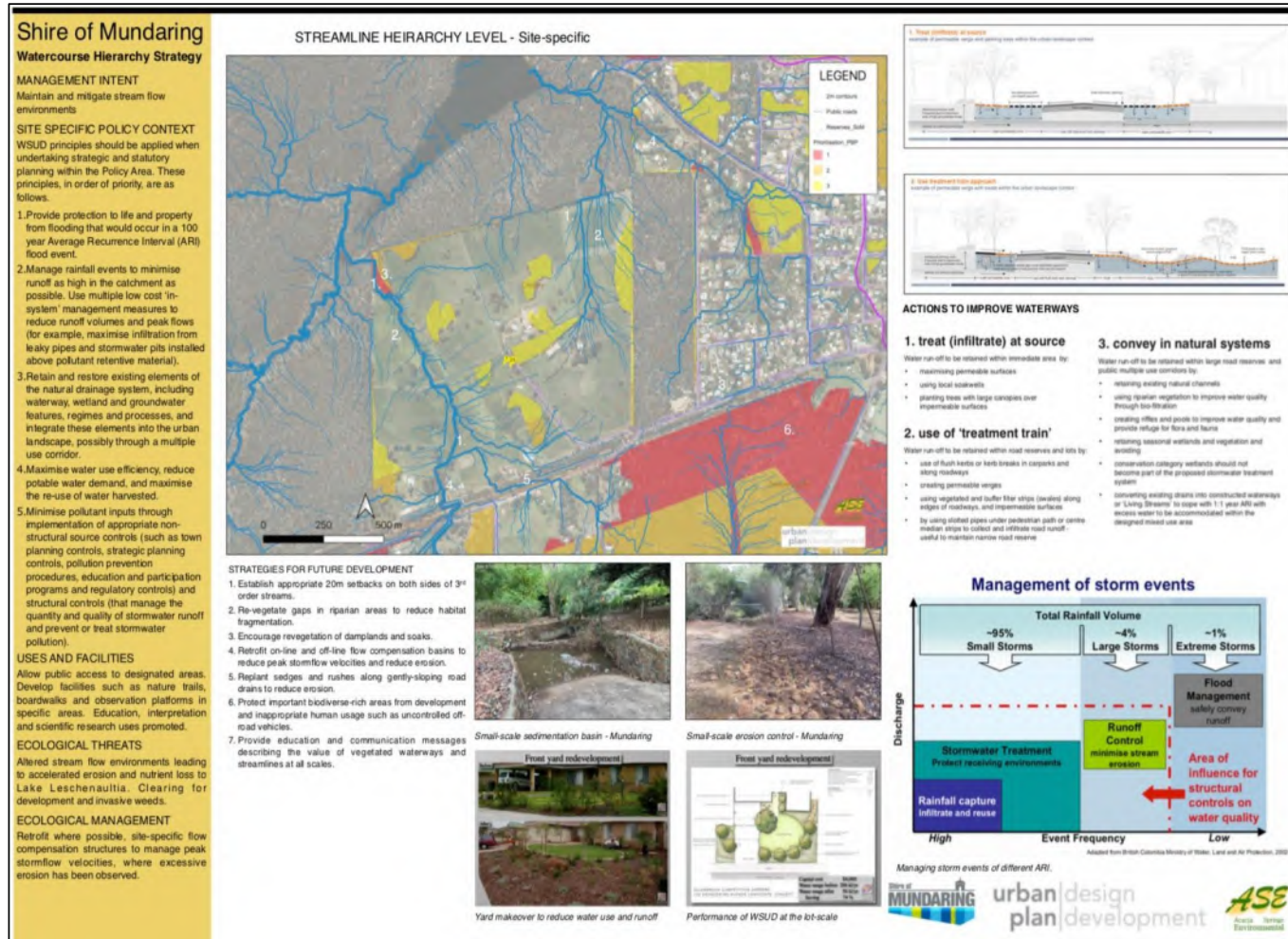


Figure 9 Watercourse management measures for the Leschenaultia precinct

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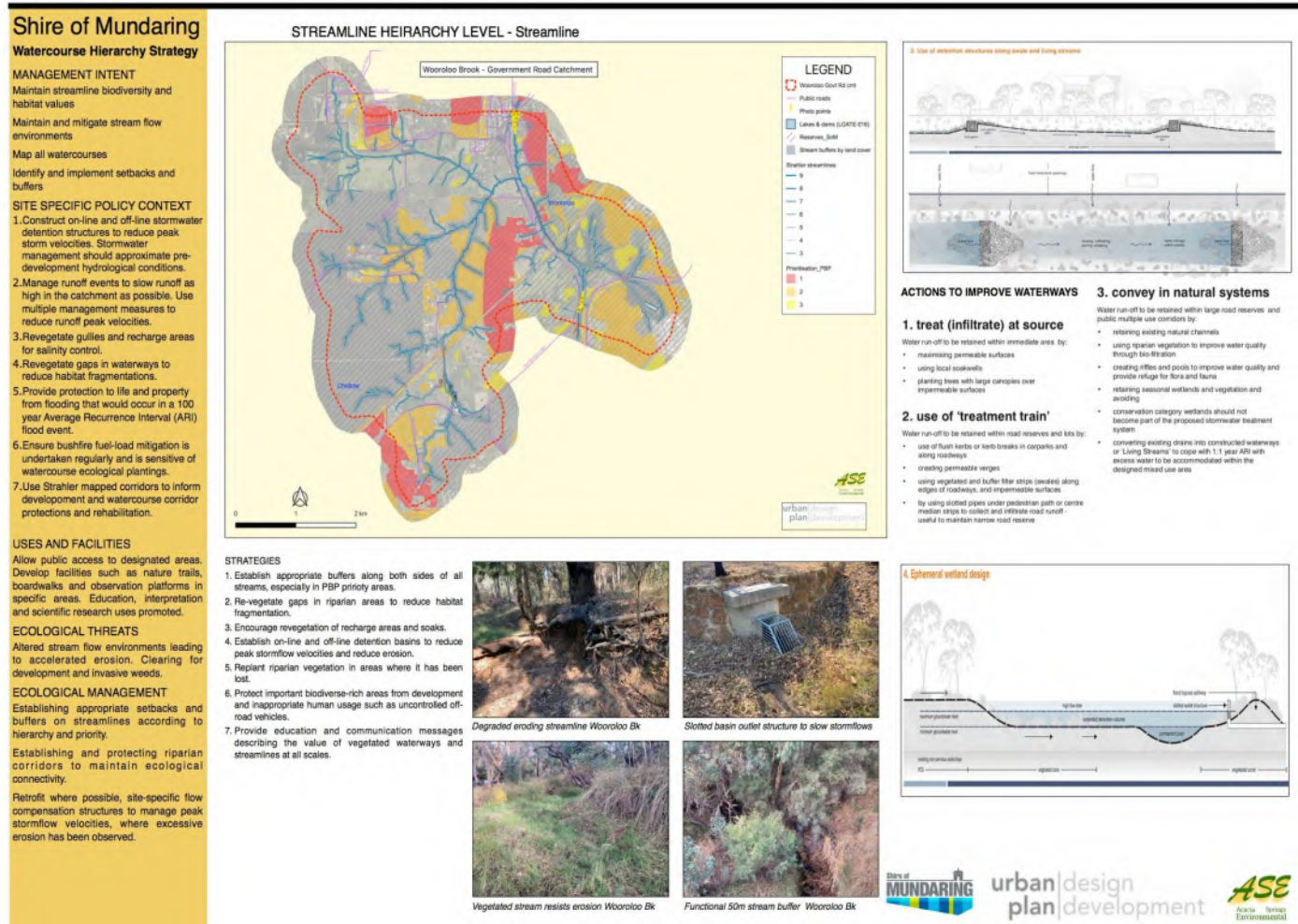


Figure 10 Watercourse management measures for the Wooroloo Bk Government Road precinct

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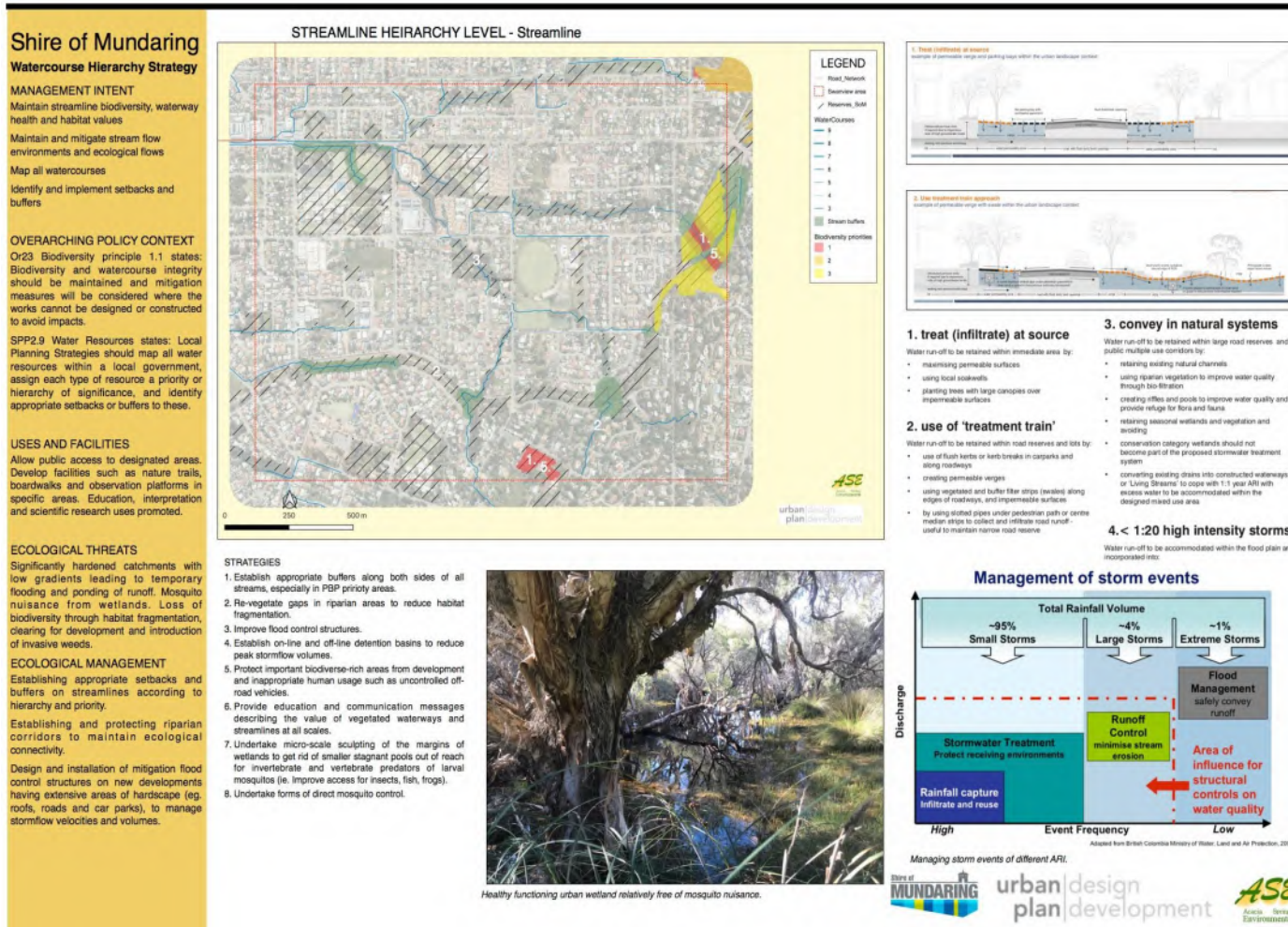


Figure 11 Watercourse management measures for the Swanview precinct.

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9 GLOSSARY

Adverse consequences	A potentially damaging impact.
Assimilative processes	Uptake and transformation of materials into other forms.
Biodiversity	A measure of variability within animal, plant and microbial communities, that applies at the level of species, family or guild, population and habitat. The concept is based on the principal that greater variability leads to more resilient and adaptable natural areas.
Bioretention	Is the process by which nutrients, sediments and other contaminants are removed from stormwater runoff using wet basins to hold runoff and allow physical and biological processes to occur.
Catchment	The area of land above a particular point that contributes stormwater runoff and streamflow. Sub-catchments are smaller areas of land that contribute runoff via individual tributaries within a larger catchment.
Coefficient of infiltration	The ratio of rainfall falling onto an area that infiltrates into the soil rather than moving over the surface as runoff. Sandy soils have much larger coefficients of infiltration than clay soils.
Dryland salinity	Dryland salinity is the build-up of salt in surface soil in non-irrigated areas, usually because of rising groundwater tables. As the soil surface dries out, salt brought to the surface where it accumulates.
Entrain sediments	To cause sediments to break from stable channel surfaces and be transported by water.
Environmental values	The range of ecosystem services provided by natural areas including water supply, flood control and mitigation, biodiversity, aesthetics amenity and spiritual nourishment.
Eutrophic	Too much available nutrient in waterways leads to excessive growth of aquatic plants such as larger macroalgae and phytoplankton. Such waterways are classified as eutrophic.
Finer textured soil	Soils are classified by the distribution of particle sizes. Sands are coarse textured soils and loams and clays are finer-textured soils.
Fertigation	The technique of supplying dissolved fertiliser to crops through an irrigation system.
Geomorphology	The physical features of the surface of the earth and their relation to the underlying geology.
Groundwater seepage	The slow percolation of groundwater out of a soil.

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Harmful phytoplankton	Particular types of phytoplankton or microscopic plants in waterways, that contain toxins that have the potential to harm animals and humans by either ingestion or contact with skin. Dinoflagellates (red tides) and blue-green algae are two such types of potentially harmful phytoplankton.
Hydrological buffering	The process of damping down extremes of water movement. Catchments having much of their original vegetation intact, have greater levels of infiltration into the soil, lower peak flow velocities and erosion and more flow seeping out during summer. All of these processes increase a catchment’s hydrological buffering and benefit plant and animal communities.
Incised	Cut into a surface.
Infiltration	Permeation of rainfall into soil.
Intermittent drainage	A stream or waterway that flows only at certain times of the year.
P leaching	When P is lost from the soil into surface runoff or groundwater.
LiDAR	Stands for <u>L</u> ight <u>D</u> etection <u>A</u> nd <u>R</u> anging. A remote sensing technique using Laser pulses to accurately measure distance from the light source to reflecting surfaces. LiDAR is typically used to create images of the land surface at fine scale.
Peak velocities	Peak velocities of stormwater flowing in natural channels during intense rainfall events are the periods when erosion is greatest. Controlling peak velocities through design reduces erosion.
Perennial	Lasting or existing for a long time.
P-fixing soils	P is an essential nutrient and a soil’s P-fixing capacity governs its ability to bind P for either release to plants or to be lost by leaching.
Refractory	Readily decomposable.
Residence time	When applied to water falling on a catchment, residence time is a measure of how long the water stays within a catchment. Short residence times usually mean higher flow rates and erosion and greater amounts of runoff moving offsite to the ocean.
Riparian corridors <u>Foreshore areas</u>	The areas each side and along streams.
Sedimentation	The process of settling or deposition of small and large soil particles being transported in stormwater.

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Strahler stream order	The Strahler system classifies the joining of streams and tributaries. A first order stream has no other streams flowing into it. When two streams with different orders join, the resulting stream has the same order as the highest order of the two joining streams.
Stream dynamics	The way streams flow during high and low-flow periods is influenced by the slope of the land, soil types, vegetative cover and the degree of disturbance to natural processes.
Land tenure	Land ownership or management by private citizens, companies and Government agencies.
Watercourse	For the purpose of this Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order Strahler Streams mapped across a catchment using LiDAR having equal to or better than 5 cm vertical resolution.
Waterway	Any stream, river, canal or lake. Also called watercourses.
Water Hierarchy Strategy	For the purposes of the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No.4, represents the ' <i>watercourse hierarchy and protection strategy</i> ' as referred to in clause 5.7.5

Appendix 1: Legislation relevant to managing ~~riparian corridors~~foreshore areas by agency

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Commonwealth

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the EPBC Act as “matters of national environmental significance”. EPBC listed threatened species and Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) can be searched from the [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water](#) ~~Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment~~ website: Threatened Species and Ecological Communities page. The listing of threatened species and communities identifies species that are at greater threat and risk of extinction.

State Government

The three pieces of state legislation that protect environmental assets and that are relevant to the waterway within the Shire of Mundaring are the:

- Planning and Development Act 2005
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Environmental Protection Act 1986
- Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

The *Planning and Development Act 2005* and associated *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* empower local authorities through local planning schemes to undertake land use and development management with the same force and effect of the *Planning and Development Act* itself. The Act enables the creation of State Planning Policies. SPP 2.9 recently released envelopes all previous water resource policy into one integrated state policy that interrelates other agency legislative policy.

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* provides for the listing of threatened native plants (flora), threatened native animals (fauna) and threatened ecological communities that are in need of greater protection. Those listed as being critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species are under increased identifiable threat of extinction (species) or collapse (ecological communities). Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected fauna or flora are species which have been adequately searched for and are deemed to be, in the wild, threatened, extinct or in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such. Possible threatened species or ecological communities that do not meet survey criteria are added to DBCA's Priority Species and Ecological Community lists.

The Act also provides for, or outlines the process for (e.g., what is in them and how they are approved), recovery plans and other modern features of biodiversity conservation and management. The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* applies to all tenure in the State. The Act also provides for recovery plans and other modern features of biodiversity conservation

and management. The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* applies to all tenure in the State. The Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018 and the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018 have been transitioned under regulations 170, 171 and 172 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018* to be the lists of Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected species under Part 2 of the 2016 Act.

According to these regulations, it is an offence to “take” or disturb threatened species (flora and fauna) (any species but fines are greater for damage or disturbance to threatened species) or their critical habitats unless the person is authorised (by the Minister) under Section 40 and complies with the conditions. The *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (WA)*, applies to DBCA managed land only, and establishes a comprehensive set of legislative provisions dealing with state conservation and land management matters. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

DBCA administers a number of Acts and associated regulations including the abovementioned *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. DBCA promotes biodiversity and conservation through sustainable management of WA’s species, ecosystems, lands and the attractions in its care. DBCA has responsibility for on-ground management of *CALM Act* lands (DBCA-managed lands). DBCA provides specialist advice and information on biodiversity and off sets to the EPA for its assessments under Part IV of the EP Act, to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and to proponents. DBCA may also implement off sets that arise as outcomes of these processes. Clearing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)* are administered by DWER with advice sought from DBCA.

[The Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006 \(SCRM Act\) aims to ensure that land use planning and development protects and enhances the ecological health, amenity and heritage value of the Swan Canning river system. DBCA has overall planning, protection and management responsibility for the Swan Canning river system under the SCRM Act. The Swan River Trust is an advisory body created by the SCRM Act and provides independent, high-level, strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and DBCA on matters affecting the Swan and Canning rivers.](#)

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)

DWER also has responsibilities related to the protection of the environment. These responsibilities are set out below.

Clearing of native vegetation:

Under Section 51C of the *EP Act*, clearing of native vegetation is an offence unless undertaken under the authority of a clearing permit, or the clearing is subject to an exemption.

Clearing is not permitted in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) except for maintenance of existing railways or roads, or in accordance with the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*. There are ESAs in proximity to waterways within the

Shire of Mundaring. ESAs are declared by the Minister for Environment under Section 51B of the EP Act.

Contaminated sites:

The *Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (CS Act)* is administered to ensure contamination is identified, recorded, managed, and remediated. Under the CS Act, landowners occupiers, and persons who caused contamination must report known or suspected contaminated sites. Anyone else may report suspected contamination. DWER assesses each report and determines the appropriate classification for the site in consultation with the Department of Health.

Unauthorised discharges:

Under the *Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges Regulations 2004) (UDR)*, it is an offence to cause or allow certain materials to enter the environment in connection with a commercial or business activity. The purpose of the UDR is to cover discharges into the environment from business or commercial activities; which individually are not serious enough to cause pollution and breach the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 but cumulatively can cause harm. The UDR are intended to ensure that all people engaged in a commercial activity take responsibility for preventing the escape of contaminants from their business into the environment.

Drainage, Salinity and Soil Conservation

The principal Act is the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*. This can be used to create covenants to protect vegetation in foreshore areas. Concerning land drainage for the purpose of controlling salinity, *SLC Regulations (1992)* which sits under the *SLC Act (1945)* require owners or occupiers to notify the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation before any groundwater drainage takes place. The Commissioner does not approve 10 h, p://www.water.wa.gov.au/licensing/water-licensing/types-of-licenses 11

Note: DWER also grants permits under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* to clear native vegetation near water. h, p://www.water.wa.gov.au/licensing/water-licensing/types-of-licenses cawsdrainage. The Commissioner will either object or not object based on the assessment of the proposed works. To date, the Act has been used concerning drainage linked to salinity concerns in the Wheatbelt rather than to urban situations. Drainage that does not need to be notified applies for most surface water management.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**State Government**

The *Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984* is the lead legislation for water resources management: coordinating across government: conserving, protecting and managing water resources; assessing water resources; planning for the use of water resources; promoting the efficient use of water resources; promoting the efficient provision of water services; preparing plans for and providing advice on flood management.

The *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (as amended) provides for the regulation, management, use, and protection of water resources. Under Division 1A (Ownership and control of waters) of this Act, the right to the use and flow, and the control, of the water at any time in any watercourse, wetland or underground water source is vested in the Crown (Division 1, 5A of the Act). The Act provides for a licensing system for taking water; and a permitting system for activities that may damage, obstruct or interfere with water flow or the beds and banks of watercourses and wetlands in proclaimed rivers, surface water management areas, and irrigation districts.

Licensing only applies to certain watercourses in WA that are proclaimed under the Act. In relation to the Jane River and its tributaries, this Catchment is unproclaimed and there is no licensing regime in place currently. However, there are general restrictions that apply to these areas under the legislation; for example, owners of [riparian-foreshore area](#) land may only take water to the extent that flow in the watercourse is not sensibly diminished (Sec. 20, 1, c of the Act). A permit is required to interfere with waters or bed and banks of the watercourse where the river is situated on Crown land. It is also an offence to obstruct the watercourse on Crown land, including the discharge of mud, earth, gravel etc. into the watercourse without authorisation. Landholders do not require a permit for works where the river is on freehold property.

This Act provides for the power to prohibit drainage works that are likely to affect the water in a watercourse, wetland or underground water source. [Department of Water and Environmental Regulation \(DWER\)](#)

Relevant to this Plan is the legislation, regulations and by-laws dealing with waterways and groundwater which are administered by DWER. The Department of Water [and Environmental Regulation \(DWER\)](#) assists the Minister for Water in administering current legislation.

The WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) issues licences and permits under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* to:

- Take water
- Construct wells (including bores and soaks)
- Interfere with the bed and banks of a watercourse.

DWER looks at the potential risks of each groundwater license application on a case by case basis in deciding whether to grant or refuse a licence, and also the terms and conditions that may be imposed.

To mitigate risks to water resources or the environment associated with the take and use of water, DWER often require that licensees monitor and report on their abstraction activities and where necessary implement contingency programmes where trigger levels are exceeded or unexpected changes to water quality or aquifer response are observed.

Water monitoring and reporting requirements for Scott River landholders are established on an individual basis. Generally, commercial water users are required to implement a monitoring program which includes metering their abstraction volumes and monitoring both surface water (where relevant) and groundwater quality. In terms of groundwater quality both the pumping aquifer and shallow groundwater up and down hydraulic gradient of the water use activity are considered.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

Legislation dealing with the land surrounding some of the waterways is administered by DPIRD. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) carries out the requirements of the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* to mitigate and prevent land degradation throughout Western Australia.

DPIRD set its priorities for declared pests by a declaration under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)* through the Minister for Agriculture. All species that were declared under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* have been transitioned to have equivalent declarations under the BAM Act.

Regulation 7 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013* allows for the establishment of categories of declared pests for both animals and plants. Regulations have been implemented since May 2013. It is the landholders' legal obligation to manage/control invasive species (weeds and feral animals) on their land. Under the Act, there is a greater responsibility for the community and industry to identify, prioritise, and control already established biosecurity threats, with the support of DPIRD. The new focus of the Department will be on preventing the emergence of new pests and diseases within WA and controlling those that do slip in.

Heritage

Aboriginal heritage sites are afforded protection under statutory law. Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972*, the Department of Planning Lands Heritage (this used to be a competency of the former Department of Indigenous Affairs) (DPLH) works with Aboriginal people to protect and manage places of significance.

The new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 (ACH Act) will provide a modern framework for the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage while recognising the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people.

Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH)

The DPLH provides advice to the public and private sectors and the community about

Aboriginal heritage management and maintains a Register of Aboriginal sites. The Department's role is to ensure that Aboriginal heritage and engagement with Aboriginal people is built into planning and management processes. Information about heritage sites can be obtained through the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS), an internet-based search tool. The AHIS provide details about the location, extent, and assessment status of each place under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. Statutory requirements for undertaking specific works in registered areas apply.

An Aboriginal site means any place to which the AHA applies by operation of Section 5 of the AHA. The Act is currently under review. <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/information-and-services/aboriginal-heritage/protection-under-the-aboriginal-heritage-act-1972> community about Aboriginal heritage management and maintains a Register of Aboriginal sites. Landholders who own the land where an Aboriginal site (registered or not) is present and who want to use this land e.g., for development, may need to apply for consent from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs to do so under Section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

After the Minister considers the recommendations of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) and also regards the general interest of the community, he or she will either grant consent to the use of the land for the purpose sought or decline to give consent to the use.

If the Minister consents, conditions may be attached to the use of the Section of land. "Where land users conclude that impact to a site is unavoidable, the consent of the Minister must be sought under Section 18 (s18) of the Act. Notice must be given to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) accompanied by the information as to the intended use of the land and sites on the land." Also: If you are planning to enter, excavate, examine or remove anything on an Aboriginal site, you are required to seek authorisation under Section 16 (s16) of the Act.

Non-Mandatory Guidelines

Codes of Conduct

For the dairy industries the WA Practice for Dairy Shed Effluent (Western Dairy, 2012) is voluntary. It is part of their Dairying for Tomorrow initiative which supports dairy farmers to increase their farm productivity while at the same time reducing their environmental footprint. The plantation industry has a Code of Practice with guidelines to regulations and legislation specific to WA. This is the Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia. Some requirements are mandatory and others are voluntary.

The purpose of this Code is to provide goals and guidelines to plantation managers so that plantation operations in Western Australia are conducted in a manner that is in accordance with accepted principles for good plantation management, whilst recognising that a primary aim of plantations is to be economically competitive and sustainable. Standards also include the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) Standard (FSC, 2018) and the Australian Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708) (AFS, 2013) which provides forest managers with economic, social, environmental and cultural criteria.

DBCA Conservation Programs

Roadside Conservation Program

Roadside vegetation plays an important role in the conservation of Western Australia's plants and animals and particularly in the peri-urban areas where there are many species only existing in these thin remnant strips. The native vegetation in roadsides is sometimes far more important than in other areas.

In heavily cleared landscapes, the vegetation in the road reserve acts as a wildlife highway, enabling animal movement between large patches of bush. It also provides essential habitat to flora and fauna. The visibility of roadside vegetation can provide locals with a defined sense of place based on easily identifiable characteristics they recognise as "home". Roads cut across the landscape, giving a cross section of vegetation communities within the landscape. Thus, wide road reserves fulfil dual roles: transport and conservation.

[It should be noted that the Western Australian Roadside Conservation Committee has been disbanded and DBCA no longer has responsibility for a roadside conservation program.](#)

Nature Conservation Covenant Program

The Nature Conservation Covenants Program began in the Metropolitan area. DBCA offers landowners the opportunity to use conservation covenants to protect the nature conservation values of their properties. The Nature Conservation Covenant is a voluntary, legally binding document that has provisions restricting activities that might threaten the land's conservation values. There are also non-voluntary covenants. Every conservation covenant is individually negotiated between DBCA and the landowner, and aims to maintain the conservation values of the bushland whilst allowing for flexibility to reflect the landowner's wishes for the land. Typically, there are restrictions such as no clearing, mining, grazing or cats and dogs must be on leashes. Often no one is allowed to enter property. The landholder may get a tax concession and in some cases a rate concession.

DBCA Land for Wildlife

DBCA's Land for Wildlife program began in 1997. There are registered Land for Wildlife properties in the Mundaring Catchment.

Soil and Land Commission Conservation

Landowners who wish to protect and manage native vegetation on their property may enter into an agreement (covenant) with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation under s30 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945.

The Soil and Land Conservation Act provides for two types of covenants:

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strategy**

- Conservation Covenant which is irrevocable. The term of these covenants is usually specified for perpetuity or a period of time. Once finalised, the Commissioner does not have statutory authority to vary or discharge these covenants.
- Agreement to Reserve (ATR) which is not expressed as irrevocable. These covenants may be in perpetuity or for a specified time and may be varied or discharged by the Commissioner.

Appendix 2 Regulatory and other actions

Table 3 below summarises the nutrient loadings to the Swan Estuary from within the Mundaring Shire and adjoining areas. It shows only modest export of N and P from these hills catchments compared to the coastal plan catchments. Appendix 3 provides a preliminary list of legislatively protected land and ~~riparian areas~~foreshore areas within the Mundaring Shire. In considering options to improve stream water quality and the environmental quality of ~~riparian buffers~~foreshore areas, it is prudent to review how recent changes in regulations have impacted on ~~riparian~~foreshore area management.

~~For new subdivisions, historically it used to be 10% POS plus drainage and other easements and conservation areas where good remnant vegetation occurred. Over time however, this has been eroded to 10% multi-use corridors. This has meant that foreshore reserves now include areas for stormwater management contained within them.~~ Urban water management plans do not allow for management of issues such as:

- inadequate fall from the stormwater detention basin into the natural waterway;
- influx of extremely hot water from hardstand bitumen roads during summer storms into waterways causing direct invertebrate and flora kills due to excessive water temperatures – insufficient containment away from the receiving water bodies;
- insufficient space for habitat and recreation to co-exist;
- edge effect issues increasing the cost of maintenance and management for councils – need to improve ratio of vegetation depth to length to reduce weed impacts;
- no gross pollutant or chemical traps and these are no longer a standard installation in the stormwater management system;
- Width of reserve needs to allow for at least four/six metre management access (use firefighting arguments including turning circles), plus conservation and sufficient room for groundwater penetration and retention to encourage groundwater recharge rather than surface flow disappearing from high in the catchment as fast as possible.

Smart regulations

Establishing by-laws, regulations, incentives and policies to link rights and responsibilities to better management of waterways and contributing lands. Regulation can be effective for localised issues such as pollution.

Higher levels of government are actively seeking to devolve responsibility/delegate many aspects of land management to local government, community groups, Landcare groups and individuals. Many of these people feel they lack the skills, finances and technical knowledge to achieve what is being asked of them. Developer contributions can assist here.

Table 3 Average annual flow, nitrogen and phosphorus loads and loads per unit cleared area for Jane Brook and the Helena River from 1997 to 2006.

Catchment	Area (km ²)	Cleared area (%)	Average annual discharge (ML)	Average annual nitrogen load (tonnes)	Nitrogen load per cleared area (kg/ha)	Average annual phosphorus load (tonnes)	Phosphorus load per cleared area (kg/ha)
Jane	137.7	49	14800	11	1.65	0.58	0.09
Helena	175.7	36	4880	5.8	0.92	0.23	0.04

It may be time to step back if possible, and get beyond simplistic 10% multi-use corridors that include conservation, water management, recreation, bushfire management, emergency access amalgamated within them.

Weed control to protect existing vegetation communities is one of the most cost-effective and cheapest options. Enhancement of remnant vegetation and protection of "waterlogged" peripheral land – beyond the floodplain are also important priorities.

Conservation incentives

Rate reductions, assistance with fencing, weed management proportional to scale of foreshore reserve can all assist local land holders.

Appendix 3 List of legislatively protected areas in the Mundaring Shire

BUSH FOREVER SITES Outside the MRS

- BF Site 215 – over the Helena River

DBCA LEGISLATED LANDS AND WATERS

- Beechina North Nature Reserve
- Beelu National Park
- Mundaring State Forest
- Greenmount National Park
- John Forrest National Park
- Leschenaultia Conservation Park

FUTURE SUBDIVISION ISSUES – main suburbs where there is space

- Bailup
- Malmalling (Postcode 6556)
- Wooroloo
- Gorrie

FORESHORE CONDITION REPORTS (1999)

- Wooroloo Brook
- Helena River
- Jane Brook
- Blackadder Creek

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

- Beechina
- John Forrest National Park
- Three small areas on western boundary of shire

EXISTING LOCAL STRUCTURE PLANS (WITH WATERWAYS ADJACENT)

- Hayden Street Trimble Road, Mt Helena
- Coothalie Road Chidlow
- Thomwick Cres, Betty, Northcote Street, Old Northam Road, Chidlow
- Beacon and Richardson Road Parkerville
- Woodlands Road Stoneville

Appendix 4 Total watercourse length by land cover zone.

Landcover zones were inferred from the SLIP region scheme and LPS zones and reserves data

SLIP zone	Σ watercourse length	Percentage of Shire total
Commercial, Industrial	4.8	0.2
Infrastructure cleared	46.5	2.0
Infrastructure vegetated	40.1	1.7
Parks, Recreation, Schools	3.1	0.1
Residential	124.2	5.4
Rural	204.7	8.9
Rural residential	573.1	24.8
Reserves	1310.0	56.8
Waterways	1.1	0.0
TOTAL	2307.6	100

Watercourses include Strahler stream orders from 3 to 9.

urban watercourse hierarchy
plan strategy

Appendix 5 Stormwater management measures for various catchment situations

1
water sensitive urban design
for low intensity events <1:1ARI


grid reinforced lawn

pervious and open cell pavement

soakwells and rainwater tanks

permeable gravels

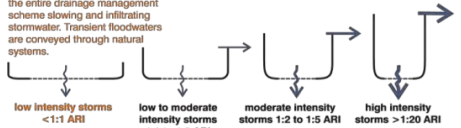
permeable surfaces



Pervious pavement is an infiltration system where storm water runoff is infiltrated into the ground through a permeable layer of pavement or other stabilized permeable surface. These systems can include porous asphalt, porous concrete, modular perforated concrete block, cobble pavers with porous joints or gaps or reinforced/stabilized turf (MORAN and Stecker, 1996). A new mind set is needed when designing stormwater management systems.


wsud principals
The model below demonstrates the concept of a 'Treatment Train'

A series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in pervious soils wet like leaking pipes throughout the entire drainage management scheme slowing and infiltrating stormwater. Transient floodwaters are conveyed through natural systems.

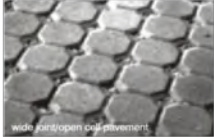


1. treat (infiltrate) at source ✓
2. use of a 'treatment train'
3. convey in natural systems

permeable pavements



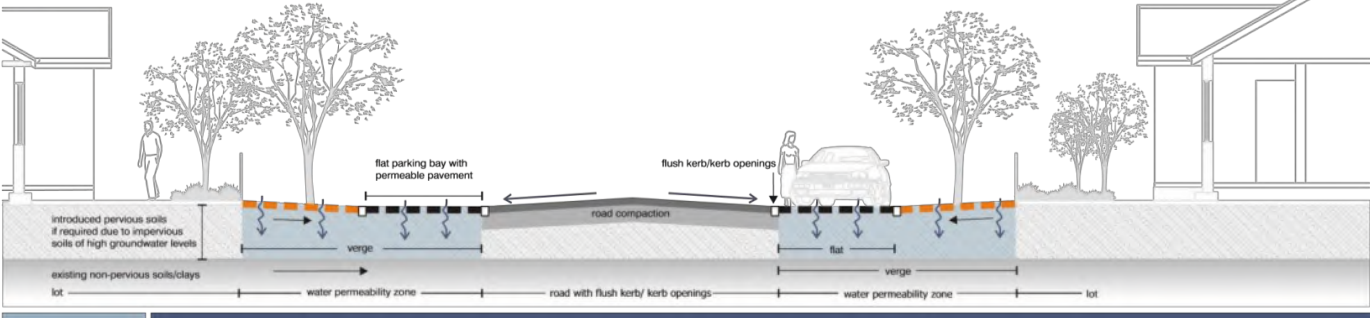
Pervious pavements can be made of concrete, asphalt, open-celled stones, and gravel, that are mixed in a manner that creates an open cell structure allowing water and air to pass through. Certain types of pervious pavement can pass 15-20 litres of water per minute, which is far greater than most conceivable rain events and highly effective in controlling stormwater drainage. Copyright © 2004 Georgia Concrete and Products Association, Inc.



wide joint/open cell pavement

Pervious pavements are particularly useful for crossovers, driveways, streets and in residential areas, also parking in commercial areas. This type of pavement is not effective in areas that receive runoff with high amounts of very fine sediment due to the tendency of the pores to clog. Pervious pavements require maintenance including periodic vacuuming or jet-washing to remove sediment from the pores.

1. Treat (infiltrate) at source
example of permeable verge and parking bays within the urban landscape context



60

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urban watercourse hierarchy
plan strategy

2 water sensitive urban design for low to moderate events 1:1 - 1:2 ARI

small storm events
flush kerb / kerb openings
pollutant removal
pervious naturestrips

wsud principals
The model below demonstrates the concept of a 'Treatment Train'.

A series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in pervious soils act like leaking cups throughout the entire drainage management scheme slowing and infiltrating stormwater. Transient floodwaters are conveyed through natural systems.

swales

swale pollutant removal

Swales are linear depressions or channels that provide for stormwater collection conveyance and infiltration. Swales may simply be grass-lined or more densely vegetated and/or landscaped. Slotted pipes or part of the verge being permeable will serve the same purpose as swales.

While swales provide for stormwater conveyance and infiltration, they also lend themselves to the screening or removal of Gross pollutants, such as litter and coarse sediment, from stormwater runoff.

In urban areas, swales may be used as an alternative to the conventional street naturestrip, central median strips or runoff collection points in carpark areas. Swales can reduce run-off volumes and peak flows. Current designs involve the use of grass or other vegetation (such as native plants or rushes) to carry out this function.

(Information: MelbourneWater 2005)

Advantages of Swales

- can reduce and delay storm run-off
- retains particulate pollutants close to source
- more aesthetically appealing than kerb and gutter
- relatively inexpensive to construct

Swales initially immobilise pollutants, by binding them to organic matter and soil particles.

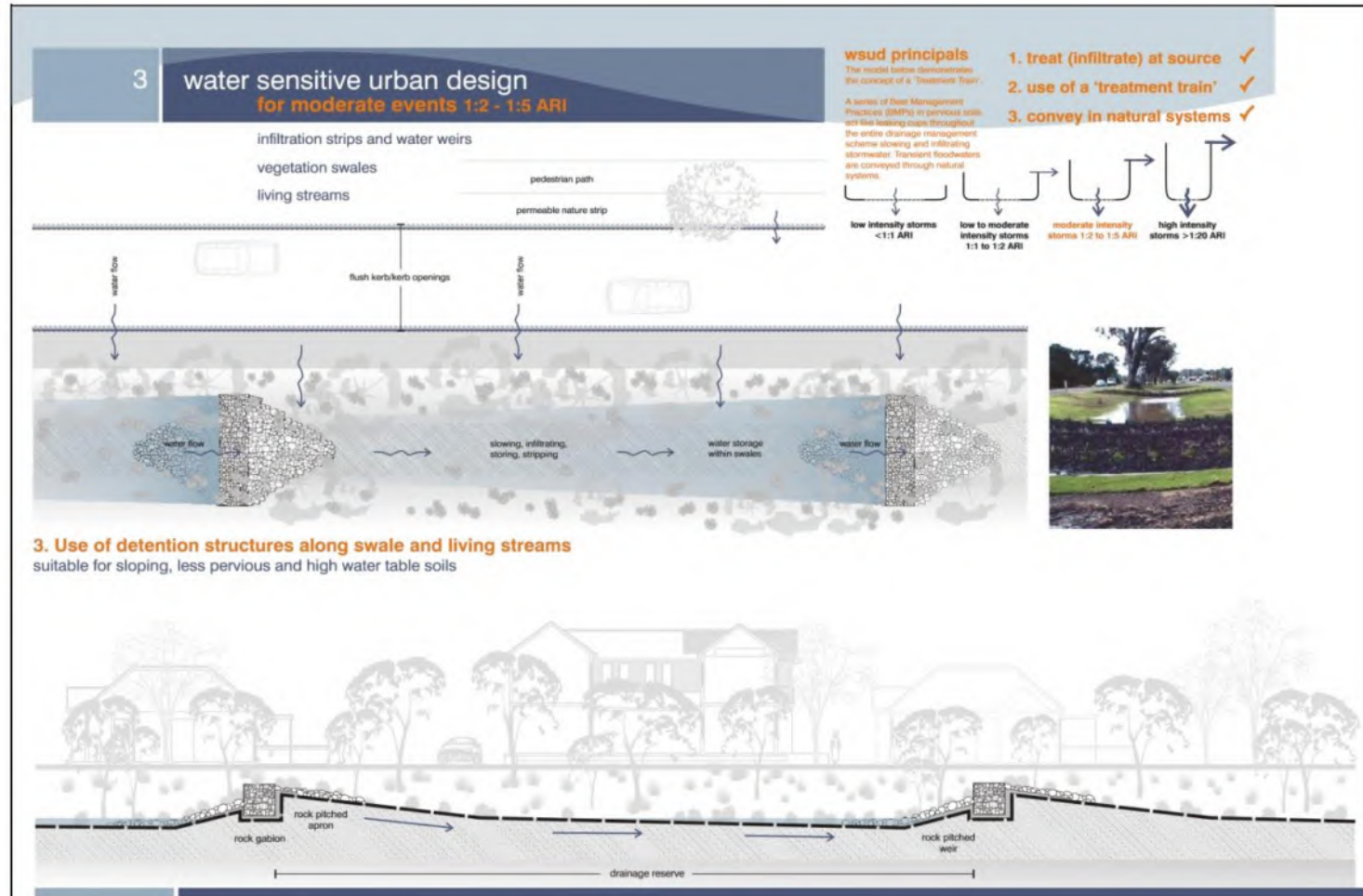
Setting, filtration and infiltration into the subsoil achieve effective pollutant removal. Certain pollutants, such as hydrocarbons, may be digested and processed by the soil microorganisms in the filter strip.

Consequently, adequate contact time between run-off and vegetation and soil surfaces is required to optimise pollutant removal.

(Information: MelbourneWater 2005)

2. Use treatment train approach
example of permeable verge with swale within the urban landscape context

urban watercourse hierarchy
plan strategy



urban watercourse hierarchy
plan strategy

4 water sensitive urban design
for high intensity events <4:20 ARI

ephemeral wetlands
living streams
infiltration basins in public open space
natural waterways and floodplains

ephemeral wetlands and living streams

wspd principals
The model below demonstrates the concept of a 'treatment Train'.
A series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in pervious soils act like leaking coops throughout the entire drainage management scheme slowing and infiltrating stormwater. Transient floodwaters are conveyed through natural systems.

1. treat (infiltrate) at source ✓
2. use of a 'treatment train' ✓
3. convey in natural systems ✓

Putting native vegetation back along streamlines and wetlands, or incorporating it into new drains, not only achieves the narrow objective of creating biofilters, it also creates a more attractive landscape, as well as completely in summer. These features may

The realisation of this has fostered the broader objective of creating living streams of native plant and animal communities,

A living stream is a complex ecosystem supporting a wide range of plants and animals,

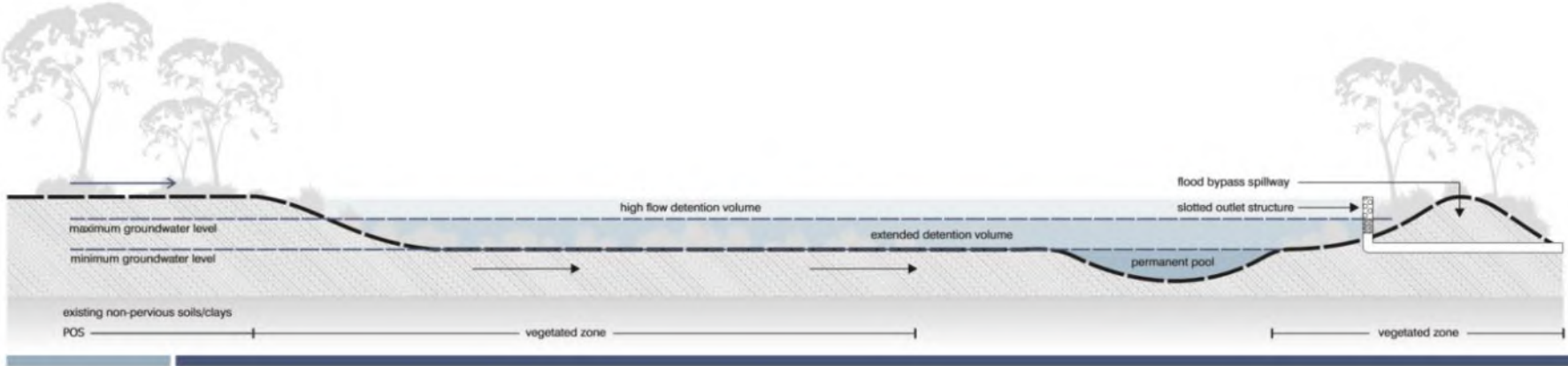
An ephemeral wetland may have significant amounts of water within it over winter and less water in summer .

Living streams and ephemeral wetlands have stable vegetated banks with many plant species.

Living streams and ephemeral wetlands provide a refuge for bush birds and other native animals and are an important part of our cultural and spiritual heritage.

4. Ephemeral wetland design
example of wet/dry wetlands within the urban landscape context

urban watercourse hierarchy
plan strategy



urban watercourse hierarchy
plan strategy

water sensitive urban design example within the urban environment

The model below demonstrates the concept of a 'Treatment Train'

A series of Best Management Practices in pervious soils act like leaking cups throughout the entire drainage management scheme slowing and infiltrating stormwater. Transient floodwaters are conveyed through natural systems.

wsud principals

1. treat (infiltrate) at source ✓
2. use of a 'treatment train' ✓
3. convey in natural systems ✓

1. treat (infiltrate) at source

Water run-off to be retained within immediate area by:

- maximising permeable surfaces
- using local soakwells
- planting trees with large canopies over impermeable surfaces

2. use of 'treatment train'

Water run-off to be retained within road reserves and lots by:

- use of flush kerbs or kerb breaks in carparks and along roadways
- creating permeable verges
- using vegetated and buffer filter strips (swales) along edges of roadways, and impermeable surfaces
- by using slotted pipes under pedestrian path or centre median strips to collect and infiltrate road runoff - useful to maintain narrow road reserve

3. convey in natural systems

Water run-off to be retained within large road reserves and public multiple use corridors by:

- retaining existing natural channels
- using riparian vegetation to improve water quality through bio-filtration
- creating riffles and pools to improve water quality and provide refuge for flora and fauna
- retaining seasonal wetlands and vegetation and avoiding
- conservation category wetlands should not become part of the proposed stormwater treatment system
- converting existing drains into constructed waterways or 'Living Streams' to cope with 1:1 year ARI with excess water to be accommodated within the designed mixed use area

4. < 1:20 high intensity storms

Water run-off to be accommodated within the flood plain and incorporated into:

- public open space and multiple use corridors as a natural drainage system
- all road reserves i.e. create water weirs along swales to detain flows and allow infiltration closer to the source

low intensity storms
<1:1 ARI

low to moderate intensity storms
1:1 to 1:2 ARI

moderate intensity storms
1:2 to 1:5 ARI

major road reserve incorporating median and verge swales

high intensity storms
>1:20 ARI

DRAFT

Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy



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Shire of
MUNDARING

**WATERCOURSE HIERARCHY STRATEGY
SHIRE OF MUNDARING
FORESHORE AREA FUNCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

17 October 2022

By **urbanplan** and Acacia Springs Environmental

On behalf of Shire of Mundaring

Approved by: Ian Brashaw

Signed / Date: 17 October 2022

Position: Principal

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Acknowledgements

The assistance and advice provided by representatives of the local catchment groups and Shire staff is gratefully acknowledged.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy defines the key issues and threats facing the management of watercourses in the Shire and recommends corresponding strategic, planning based and operational actions.

The Shire of Mundaring has an extensive watercourse network, totalling a length of 2307km. Approximately 40% of the watercourses traverse through private land and around 60% through a vast network of public reserves.

Watercourses play a vital role in sustaining biodiversity in the shire. Watercourses also define the shire's distinct landscape amenity and sustain a range of social, cultural and economic values. Healthy waterways are therefore integral to delivering on the Shire's vision - a Place for Sustainable Living.

Watercourses and the foreshore areas along the banks are under threat. Key threats include changing rainfall patterns due to climate change, land use and development pressures and increasing impervious surfaces causing erosion and sedimentation.

Recommendations were developed by first undertaking a geographically-based (GIS) synthesis of issues. This provided the backdrop for informed targeted stakeholder consultations, exploring and documenting what might be possible currently and into the future.

Strategic issues and outlook have been represented spatially across the different catchments (pages 29 to 31 and 37 to 41). A new strategic direction is presented which, amongst other more specific actions, include:

1. Better control of storm flow peak-velocities for improved erosion control.
2. Greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas.
3. Better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities.
4. Provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and help landowners become responsible land managers.
5. Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors.
6. To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.

Recommendations inform statutory land use decisions under Local Planning Scheme No.4, future investigations, operational priorities and stormwater interventions. The outcomes of this strategy have informed the development of Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy (particularly the wildlife corridor mapping) and Public Open Space strategies. Further, it is intended that the findings of the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy shape the future review of the Local Planning Strategy and the next iterations of the Shire's local planning scheme.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 CONTEXT

The geomorphology of the Shire of Mundaring consists of incised perennial and intermittent drainage in laterite soils overlying Yilgarn block granite. This landform is entirely different to the coastal plain with its shallow groundwater and nutrient-leaching soils. Agricultural and urban land use on the coastal plain has been largely responsible for the unacceptable nutrient loads reaching and threatening the Swan River Estuary. Stormwater management systems on the coastal plain have been focussed on infiltration and bioretention systems that hold the stormwater for significant periods of time for treatment.

The Mundaring uplands require special consideration and tailor-made solutions. For example, detention systems are required to slow stormwater runoff and reduce its peak velocities which lead to erosion. Infiltration basins on the finer-textured clays and loams are less effective because the coefficient of infiltration is much less than for Swan Coastal Plain sandy soils. Additionally, highly P-fixing soils in the hills bind phosphorus and P levels in runoff from Mundaring catchments are currently within the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' acceptable short and long-term targets. Consequently, water quantity and velocity management are more significant than water quality (nutrient) management.

Land use characteristics also affect watercourse water quality and stream dynamics. Forested catchments need to be considered differently to rural residential areas. Equally, private ownership compared to state and local government tenured and operated catchments, differ.

Depending upon the land use characteristics and erosion potentials, water quality can also be an issue. Non-structural controls including education and awareness for stormwater management would be an effective approach for such catchments. These are institutional and pollution prevention practices designed to prevent or minimise pollutants from entering stormwater runoff and/or to reduce the volume of stormwater requiring management.

These include better practices of local government operations, asset managers, industrial/commercial businesses and householders, through mechanisms such as maintenance practices, regulation, strategic planning and education. They usually work by changing behaviour through government regulation (e.g. planning and environmental laws), education and/or economic instruments. Education and awareness for stormwater management can be developed by various sectors of the community to raise awareness and provide a catalyst for a behaviour change to reduce pollution entering the stormwater system.

2.2 SHIRE PROFILE

The shire is mostly uncleared of remnant vegetation and, in addition to public land such as National Parks, State forest and drinking water supply catchments, Local Natural Areas also occur on private land. There is thus the opportunity, and a significant expectation from Shire residents, that the natural environment will be protected and maintained. The Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy provides directions for biodiversity protection.

Protection of watercourses within the shire from pollution and sedimentation, from existing and future land use and development is important both for the maintenance of environmental values within the shire itself and because watercourses in the shire flow to the Swan and Helena

1

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Rivers. Local impacts on watercourses may have adverse consequences downstream. There is also a risk of dryland salinity from sub-catchments draining areas to the east and there may be acid sulphate soils in some areas of the shire, notably in proximity to watercourses.

More than 2307.6 km of 3-9th-order streamlines across the shire deliver surface runoff with lesser amounts of groundwater seepage to the Swan River estuary. The Swan and Canning Rivers have been experiencing regular potentially harmful phytoplankton blooms, a symptom of a eutrophic and overloaded system. Urban and rural development within the larger Swan-Avon catchment has reduced the hydrological buffering of the Swan-Canning as a system. This means that the residence time of water within most catchments has been considerably reduced, impeding the natural assimilative processes of foreshore areas.

Unfortunately, the process of reserving land and separating land uses and/or development from creek lines has often failed to deliver the required outcomes. Given the scale and low-density population in the Shire, securing waterways into public ownership and regulation alone cannot address the fragmented ownership, and fragmented management of waterways throughout the Shire. Further, regulation alone does not of itself generate the community mindset or consider adequately, the very significant human and financial resources required to balance and manage operationally, cultural heritage and biodiversity protections, bushfire risks, hydrological functioning, weed infestations, and unauthorised off-road vehicle access, to name a few of the often-competing issues.

The WA EPA (2021), has concluded that the planning framework in WA is important for managing impacts on foreshore areas. To this end the Shire of Mundaring has been developing a more responsive and creative policy approach and have concluded that a broader stakeholder engagement is essential to delivering greater community buy-in and action. This is exemplified by the early successes of various sub-catchment '*Friends of*' groups. Given the established science, the prevailing policy context and early community buy-in, a forensic interrogation of the 'system' is now required to determine what has and hasn't worked, where, when, how and why.

The **urbanplan** and ASE team have embarked upon a geographically-based (GIS) synthesis of issues that provides the backdrop for targeted stakeholder consultations, exploring and documenting what might be possible currently and into the future.

2.3 WATERCOURSES HIERARCHY STRATEGY APPROACH

Our joint establishment of a local vision for Mundaring's watercourses is has been guided by contemporary scientific and policy development and stakeholder inclusion. It aims to deliver the required concise Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, while addressing various streamline hierarchy levels, land tenures and land managers (state and local government and freehold).

To mitigate against changes brought about by land development and other disturbances and the subsequent alterations to landform and foreshore areas, waterway hydrologic and ecological functions need to be maintained as close as practicable to their original state (Section 2.6 provides more detail on impacts). The policy response derived from the empirical research needs to set strategic actions with assigned responsibility. In this regard the catchment groups offer a significant vehicle to guide and support freehold owners in managing watercourses on private property.

A future role for landowners as joint custodians will be significant if improved management practices are to be implemented in all areas of the shire in private ownership. This recognises that around 40 percent of the shire's waterways are proximate to, or within areas of freehold ownership. This requires community actions across the shire, supported by the Shire's communication of information and education materials demonstrating the principles and processes and mitigation techniques that will support appropriate actions by all landowners.

2.4 APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT

To achieve effective community consultation during the pandemic the **urbanplan** Acacia Springs Environmental team, established an informal focus group with representatives from each of the catchment groups active within the Shire and undertook targeted communications with members of the Shire's Environmental Advisory Committee.

A number of discussions were held between the consultants and Shire staff with officers of the DWER, regarding the use of LiDAR for determining and classifying watercourses. While it was appreciated from comparisons with existing data, that the LiDAR-derived watercourse hierarchy was a significant improvement in available data for the shire, it was recognised that it should not substitute for site-specific assessments of potential impacts and opportunities for particular land development initiatives.

This approach drew on detailed local knowledge of catchment and waterway characteristics and the experiences of mitigation and restoration activities that had been undertaken over the past 20 or so years.

For the purpose of this Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order Strahler Streams mapped across a catchment using LiDAR having equal to or better than 5 cm vertical resolution.

2.4.1 ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the community engagement with local people was threefold:

- a) to glean local understandings of foreshore area function and processes, particularly as they related to issues and restoration and mitigation actions;
- b) to share our consulting experience and understanding of waterway functions and process more broadly; and,
- c) to explore potential implementation and the required resourcing and support.

The local information that was so freely shared by local 'experts', is gratefully acknowledged and has been crucial in guiding the direction and outcomes of this investigation.

2.5 ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

The development of issues focused on matters aligned with the investigation's scope requirements and were not particularly linked to socio-political implications of future land developments. Issues fell into two groups including:

- I. generic issues that applied over much of the shire; and,
- II. localised issues that were associated with particular locations and/or situations.

2.5.1 GENERIC ISSUES

The following issues were collated from members of the Shire's Environmental Advisory Group and determined from various reports and documents. They included:

1. Environmental weeds and pests have been observed in many locations across the shire. These include a wide range of introduced grasses and dicotyledons such as nightshade, arum lily and cotton bush and pests such as mosquitos, European wasps, rodents, foxes and feral animals. The Shire has made a number of on-line resources available such as weed identification and control and for pest control.
2. Bank and bed erosion have been observed across the shire. Erosion caused by swiftly flowing storm flows has the potential to damage associated infrastructure such as roads, bridges and paths, and lead to sedimentation and turbidity impacts on aquatic habitats (Photo plates 1 and 2) .
3. House values were seen to be related (positively and negatively) to streamline amenity.
4. Wastewater Treatment Plants. Comprehensive sewage treatment and disposal for Mundaring's highly undulating landscape and widely dispersed settlements is not cost effective. It would require expensive pressure mains and lengthy pipe runs to suitable treatment and disposal sites. Accordingly, a number of small package treatment plants have been commissioned that discharge highly treated wastewater to local waterways. While these discharges are licensed to operate within controlled environmental limits, there is community concern that equipment failure and population creep could lead to adverse impacts on receiving waterways. The lack of cost-effective options for sewage treatment and finite capacities of existing systems have been cited as stifling further population growth and development opportunities.
5. Falling rates of community involvement have been observed for most of the shire's catchment groups. People reported that they have become increasingly time-poor and unable to commit as readily to volunteer opportunities.
6. Community engagement with foreshore areas has been reported as lessening, partly as a consequence of pressures cited for point 5 above.

7. Climate uncertainty was seen as leading to two potentially adverse impacts on the shire's streamlines. This included the predictions of falling overall rainfall for the Perth environs leading to drying of foreshore areas. Predictions of increasing frequencies of extreme weather and rainfall conditions have raised concerns over increased velocities of stormwater runoff and subsequent increases in erosion.
8. Gaps in integration and inconsistency of agency oversight was seen as sometimes leading to less-than-optimal implementation of policies and regulations applying to streamlines.
9. Phytophthora dieback and Myrtle Rust

2.5.2 LOCALISED ISSUES

There was some duplication of issues raised by representatives of the various Catchment groups or gleaned from websites and publications and these have been left here for completeness. Some issues are framed as actions and some interpretation has been applied accordingly.

Blackadder / Woodbridge Catchment Group

- Ecological corridors through urbanised areas are fragmented and require restoration.
- Invasive weeds need removal.
- Local species need to be established utilising local provenance seeds.
- Remnant vegetation needs additional protections and improved management.
- Catchment and waterways need to be protected through management and practices that consider Aboriginal heritage, recreation needs and accessibility.
- Awareness of local environmental issues needs to be raised.
- Environmentally sensitive planning needs to be advocated for development

Helena River Catchment Group

- Improved ecological connectivity on both sides of waterways.
- Better linkages between reserves along foreshore areas.
- Improved flow and erosion control on side tributaries entering the Helena R.
- Greater environmental flows down the main channel of the Helena R.
- Improved regulatory oversight of foreshore areas.
- Improved agency integration and consistency.

Jane Brook Catchment Group

- Better control of storm flows.
- Improved erosion control.
- Improved management of weeds.
- Greater community engagement and participation.
- Greater regulatory oversight.
- Improved agency coordination.

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- More sensitive bushfire mitigation.

Susannah Brook Catchment Group

- More regeneration and rehabilitation for biodiversity.
- Greater connectedness of wildlife corridors.
- Improved stream water quality for fauna.
- Improved rubbish removal and less vandalism.
- More people involved and having ownership.
- Better integration with bushfire mitigation.

Wooroloo Brook Land Care Group

Note: This group was inactive. Past representatives were interviewed.

- Salinity arising from eastern catchments needs controlling.
- Revegetation of gullies and recharge areas.
- Control of environmental weeds.
- Channel and bank erosion control.
- Improved mitigation against catastrophic wildfires which lead to massive erosion.
- Greater community engagement and involvement.

2.6 ISSUES PRIORITISATION

Issues raised during the community consultation and desktop research were brought together and prioritised, using [Intercom's RICE methodology](#) which is based on the following relationship:

$$\frac{\text{Reach} \times \text{Impact} \times \text{Confidence}}{\text{Effort}} = \text{RICE SCORE}$$

Reach was interpreted as the spatial extent of the issue, Impact was seen as the magnitude of adverse or beneficial changes arising, Confidence was seen as the reliability of predictions of impact and restoration, and Effort was seen as a combination of human, financial and logistical inputs required to manage the issue. Whilst this RICE approach required a level of expert-knowledge of the subject matter for its use, it did serve to invite participants to make explicit many of their implied assumptions.

The resulting streamline priorities included:

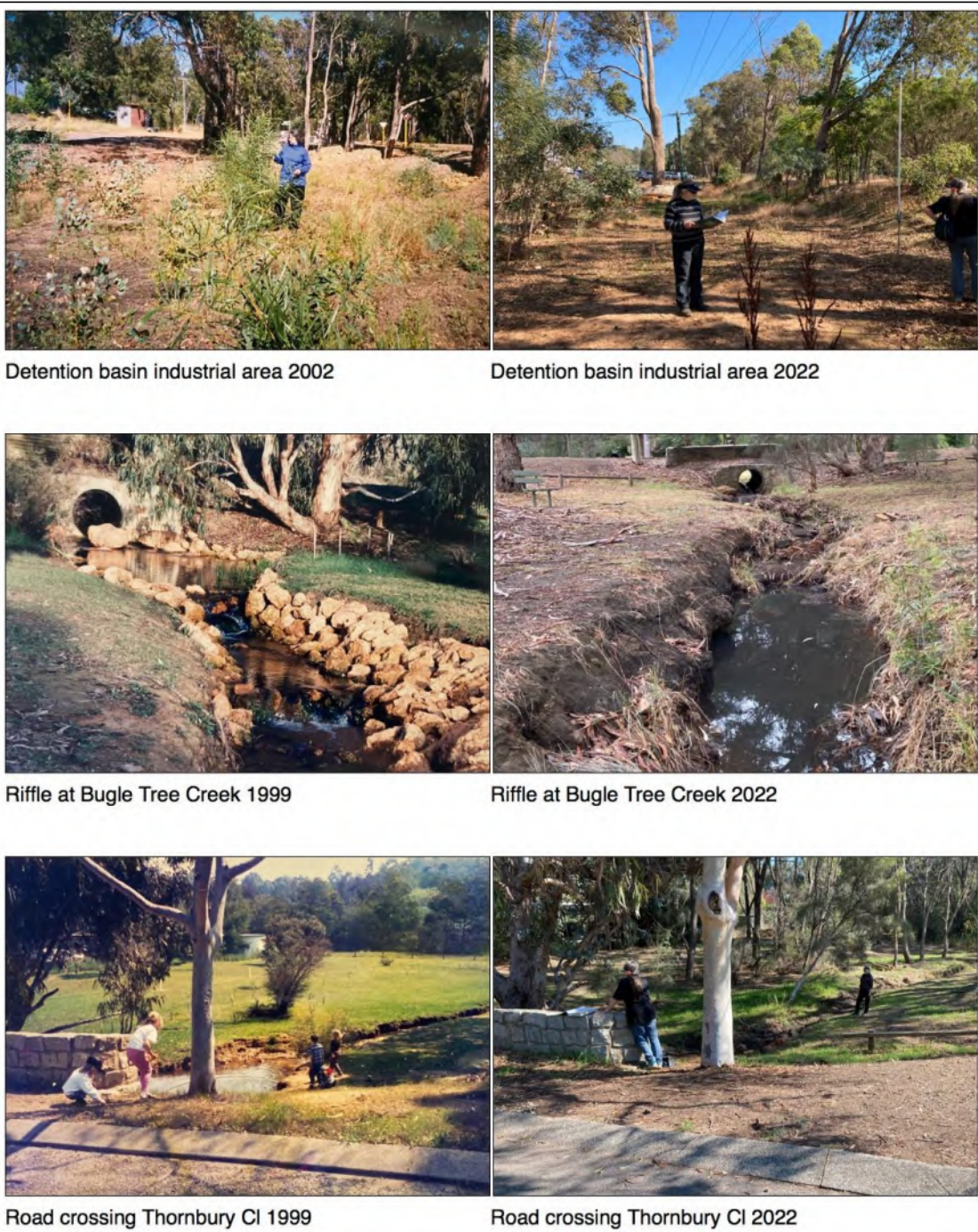
Priority 1 Better control of storm flows for erosion control.

Priority 2 Greater levels of regeneration and rehabilitation for biodiversity.

- Greater community engagement and involvement
- Better linkages between reserves.
- Improved bushfire mitigation along corridors to prevent catastrophic wildfires which severely damage vegetation, soil seed stores, soil fertility and stability and which can lead to accelerated erosion.

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- Ecological corridors through urbanised areas are fragmented and require restoration.
- Better integration with bushfire mitigation.



Picture plate 1: Photo pairs showing changes in watercourses from 1999 to 2020 (Early photos courtesy Jane Brook Catchment Group).



Picture plate 2: Examples of erosion and watercourse condition within the shire

3 CHARACTERISTICS OF FORESHORE AREAS

3.1 BACKGROUND

A significant amount of energy has been expended on the development of policies and regulations for the protection of foreshore areas. There is an extensive global literature on the topic describing many different situations and approaches. This brief review, rather than providing a comprehensive documentation of the range of applied policy instruments, has sought to describe those situations having some similarity to the social, biophysical and political environment of the Shire of Mundaring and its watercourses.

3.2 WHAT ARE FORESHORE AREAS?

The answer to this question (Figure 1), is best summarised by the US National Academy Press:

“Lands next to water are fundamental to the livelihood of many species of plants and animals, including humans. Birds and other wildlife aggregate in riparian areas, often in great abundance. At the same time, society values riparian areas for production of food, access to transportation, opportunities for recreation, and natural scenic beauty” (NRC, 2002).

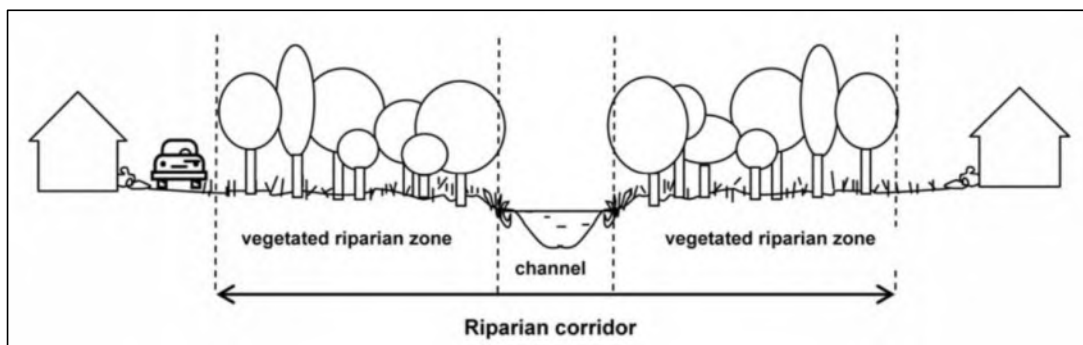


Figure 1 Riparian buffer extends both sides of streamlines

3.3 WHY PROTECT FORESHORE AREAS?

The WA Waterways Commission provided a rationale:

“Protection and management of riparian areas is essential for maintaining healthy waterways and wetlands. Protected foreshores preserve aquatic, littoral and terrestrial habitat for native flora and fauna while providing amenity and maintaining scenic quality and landscape values. They also reduce the impacts of erosion, sedimentation and nutrient influx in waterways” (WRC, 2001b)

3.4 HOW DO FORESHORE AREAS FUNCTION?

The NSW DPI's Office of water (NSWDPI, 2012), described the functioning of foreshore areas:

- providing bed and bank stability and reducing bank and channel erosion;
- protecting water quality by trapping sediment, nutrients and other contaminants;
- providing diversity of habitat for terrestrial, foreshore and aquatic plants (flora) and animals (fauna);
- providing connectivity between wildlife habitats;
- conveying flood flows and controlling the direction of flood flows;
- providing an interface or buffer between developments and waterways; and,
- providing passive recreational uses.

The protection, restoration or rehabilitation of vegetated foreshore areas is important for maintaining or improving the shape, stability (or geomorphic form) and ecological functions of a watercourse and bigger is better. Wider corridors provide greater protection for streamline ecological processes.

3.5 HOW WIDE SHOULD PROTECTED FORESHORE AREAS BE?

A foreshore area consists of the channel which comprises the bed and banks of the watercourse (to the highest bank) and the two sides of the Vegetated Riparian Zone (VRZ) adjoining the channel (Figure 1). It has been recommended that multiple factors such as the biophysical conditions (WRC, 2001b, NSWDPI, 2012, WRC, 2001a) of the streamline, and the nature of the management requirements (NSWDPI, 2018, Price, 2004, Lovett, 2007), should combine to determine the width of protected foreshore areas (Tables 1 and 2).

Table 1 Foreshore area widths in NSW based on stream order (NSWDPI, 2012)

Watercourse type	VRZ width ^a (m)	Total RC width (m)
1st order	10	20 m + channel width
2nd order	20	40 m + channel width
3rd order	30	60 m + channel width
4th order and greater ^b	40	80 m + channel width

VRZ width^a = Vegetated Riparian Zone each side of watercourse

Greater^b = includes estuaries, wetlands and any parts of rivers influenced by tidal waters

Table 2 National foreshore area widths based on management objectives (Lovett, 2007)

Management objective	Bank width (m)	Total Corridor width (m)
Improve water quality	10 vegetated plus 5-10 grass strip	2 times 15 + channel width
Reduced stream bank erosion	Minimum width 5 Bank height 4 Erosion rate $0.2 \times 20 = 4$ Therefore Total = 13	2 times 13 + channel width
Maintaining natural light and temperature regime in streams	2 to 3 tree or tall shrub widths = (5 to 20)	2 times (5 to 20) + channel width
Provide food inputs and aquatic habitat	2 to 3 tree or tall shrub widths = (5 to 20)	2 times (5 to 20) + channel width
Provide terrestrial habitat	10 for small animals 50 for large animals	2 times (10 to 50) + channel width
Preventing stock damage	5 to 20	2 times (5 to 20) + channel width
Foreshore areas to enable agricultural production	10 to 30 wide with 20 times that length	2 times (10 to 30) + channel width
Land clearing for agricultural or urban development	20 to 200	ACT – various, NSW 20, Vic – 30 NT - various, SA – various Qld –1°-2° >50, 3°-4° >100, 5°+ >200

3.6 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREFERRED FORESHORE AREAS

The DWER recommends a site specific criteria based approach to identifying riparian buffer widths, rather than simply adopting 'standard' widths. Historically, a width of 30 m for waterways and 50 m for estuaries was generally applied. The use of standard widths did not allow for negotiation of narrower or wider foreshore widths where this was appropriate in specific cases.

Operational policy 4.3 is the State government policy on waterway foreshores (DoW 2012). This is described in more detail in Section 5. The recommended method for determining foreshore widths in WA is based on site-specific biophysical criteria (WRC 2001a). The biophysical criteria include: vegetation, hydrology, soil type, erosion risk, geology, topography, function, habitat, climate change impacts, heritage and the risks from the proposed adjacent land use. The criteria are a means of assessing the features, functions, values of and risks to the waterway.

A width of 30 m for waterways and 50 m for estuaries (including the estuarine reaches of rivers) could be considered as a general baseline to which additional width is added when needed based on specific features, functions, values or to mitigate specific risks. A watercourse hierarchy

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approach that considers size, flow volumes and position in the catchment helps fine-tune the application of regulations. Sometimes the appropriate width may be much greater than the general baseline. For example, for a high-value pristine or near-pristine river with threatened species, where logging is proposed nearby, an appropriate foreshore/buffer width might be 100 m. For a small degraded creek in a paddock, 15-20 m revegetated foreshore either side may be adequate. Note that 10 m is allowed for edge effects, so this should always be added to the width of intact foreshore area vegetation (Advice for Section 2.6 was provided by the DWER's R Lynch pers com 2022).

A watercourse hierarchy approach helps:

- establish clear and appropriate guidelines on the width of foreshore areas
- provide greater flexibility in urban design by allowing a broader range of uses in foreshore areas, including detention basins, cycleways, roads and recreational areas
- enable works and activities to be offset along the length of a foreshore area
- provide greater flexibility with watercourse crossing design
- remove the need for vegetated buffers in addition to a foreshore area
- introduce a streamlined assessment approach so that compliant proposals can be assessed more quickly.

4 IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON STREAMLINE PROCESSES

4.1 RUNOFF

Clearing native vegetation and establishing rural and urban land uses, has a significant impact on the water balance and on the nature of catchment hydrologic processes. Development leads to an increase in impervious areas in the urban form and the land surface in agricultural areas becomes more impervious because of stock or mechanical compaction. In these situations, rainfall no longer soaks into the ground as readily as before and this results in an increase in the volume and velocity of runoff, particularly during peak flow storm events on wetted catchments.

In addition, extensive networks of artificial drainage are routinely constructed to remove stormwater from land surfaces into receiving waterways as quickly as possible. In addition to preventing unacceptable levels of flooding, this approach has led to drainage networks that maximise local convenience and protection, without adequately considering off-site damage from accelerated flow, water pollution, or even the loss of the water resource. Other problems include increased channel erosion and downstream flooding, deposition of sediment, and a resulting loss of property, wildlife habitat and natural vegetation.

4.2 SEDIMENT TRANSPORT

In their natural state, particulate solids in streams are regulated substantially by the foreshore area vegetation. Removal or damage to vegetative cover has been found to increase the delivery of particulate solids to receiving waterways.

In an undeveloped area, a natural stream normally adjusts so that its cross section and bedslope are in approximate equilibrium, with sub-critical flows of $<0.6 \text{ msec}^{-1}$ being dominant. Increased volumes of stormwater runoff brought about by clearing and hardening of the catchment typically reach super-critical velocities in excess of 0.8 msec^{-1} , which entrain sediments (erosion) and produce significant changes in the natural stream channel. More frequent high-flow events and flooding can cause bank and streamline erosion, damage and disrupt ecological processes of foreshore areas and damage adjacent property, and infrastructure. Increases in peak velocities and increasing frequency of larger flows following development may also have implications for the processing and recycling of organic carbon and nutrients within foreshore areas.

Accelerated channel erosion can also create downstream damage by the deposition of eroded sediment. Lakes reservoirs and estuaries fill, stormwater pipes and culverts become clogged causing localised flooding and areas adjacent to streams may become covered with mud and debris and weed seeds left after each flood. Processes leading to the remobilization of sediments from upstream reaches of a waterway may, through time, lead to adverse impacts on downstream water quality and damage foreshore areas.

Suspended solids loadings to receiving wetlands and estuaries are likely to adversely impact on biota in a number of ways including physical smothering, increased light attenuation and changes to dissolved oxygen fields if the suspended solids contain a significant proportion of refractory organic matter. Physical smothering results when the loading of suspended solids settling onto

benthic organisms exceeds their clearance rates. For benthic plant communities this may reduce photosynthesis, and for suspension feeders, this may interfere with modes of feeding.

The accumulation of sediment in watercourses may also reduce the available habitat for instream flora and fauna.

4.3 NUTRIENT TRANSPORT

Clearing for urban and agricultural development, combined with the application of artificial fertilizers have been responsible for nutrient enrichment of many Australian estuaries (Deeley, 1999). Nutrients may be discharged to receiving estuaries and wetlands as dissolved or particulate forms, and significant amounts of these inputs are potentially biologically available given appropriate hydrodynamic processes, settling, resuspension and uptake mechanisms (Deeley, 1996).

Recent research undertaken in the southwest of WA (Weaver, 2014, McKergow, 2006a, McKergow, 2006b, Weaver, 2021) compared catchment-scale nutrient loss and attenuation rates from streams without or with vegetated foreshore areas-. Low order streams were found to have the highest nutrient and sediment concentrations and were more dominated by surface runoff. These lower order or smaller watercourses therefore represent the best opportunity to attenuate nutrients and sediment.

For surface flow and hill-slope erosion-dominated streams (like much of the Mundaring Shire), vegetated foreshore areas provided an effective means of reducing suspended solids SS (*i.e.* reducing erosion) (McKergow, 2003) and P transport, consistent with findings for soils with very high P-binding capacities (*i.e.* silts, loams, clays).

Stormflow into the Swan River from rural areas particularly on the coastal plain has long been recognised as a major source of nutrient pollutants. Efforts to date to reduce these nutrients have largely been unsuccessful (OAGWA, 2014). Experience elsewhere shows that it is possible to improve the health of rivers in urban areas, but it requires concerted and coordinated effort by the overwhelming majority of stakeholders, and long-term action. Success was found to depend upon state agencies, local governments and the private sector being aware of and acknowledging what needs to be done and in widespread implementation of restorative solutions (OAGWA, 2014).

4.4 ARE FORESHORE AREAS EFFECTIVE FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT?

(Weaver, 2014) raised concerns about the effectiveness of foreshore areas for achieving nutrient reductions where there is a high probability of very high levels of P export such as on the Swan Coastal Plain. The cost-effectiveness of a range of agricultural productivity and stream restoration measures has recently been estimated (Figure 2). The left hand diagram with the orange circles represents sandy areas subject to P transport by subsurface transport mechanisms (leaching) and the right hand diagram with green circles represents areas dominated by surface flows such as the Shire of Mundaring. Management measures at the lower left of both diagrams have the least probability of success. Conversely, measures in the top right of the diagrams have the greatest chance of success.

These diagrams suggest that foreshore areas and associated grass filter strips are successful at enhancing habitat quality, at attenuating erosion and sediment-bound nutrients where surface

runoff is the dominant flow mechanism. Despite their many benefits however, foreshore areas may be less effective at attenuating P where sub-surface flows dominate.

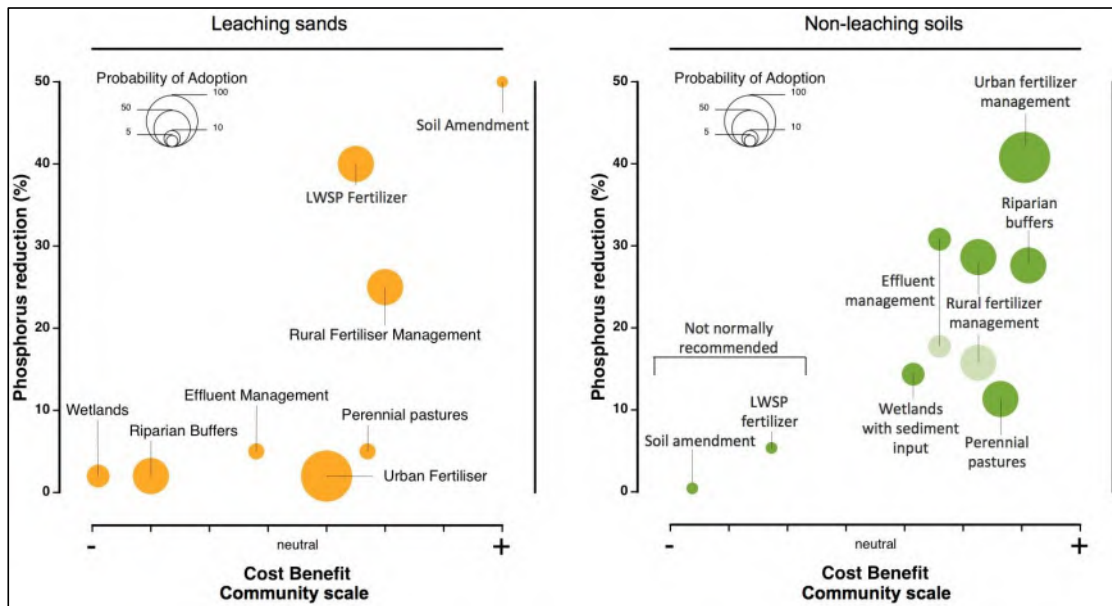


Figure 2 Estimated cost-effectiveness of nutrient management measures Note: coastal plain orange, Mundaring Shire green

4.5 IMPLICATIONS AND APPLICATION TO THE SHIRE OF MUNDARING

Foreshore areas and associated grass filter strips are successful at enhancing habitat quality and attenuating erosion and sediment-bound nutrients where surface runoff is the dominant flow mechanism such as for Mundaring Shire east of the Ridge Hill Shelf.

4.6 IMPACTS ON MUNDARING’S WATERCOURSES

The continuing demand for additional land for housing, industrial development and associated infrastructure necessitated by population increases, exerts significant pressure on naturally vegetated areas along watercourses. These areas may be impacted directly by clearing as part of urban expansion, as well as indirect impacts through human disturbance within foreshore areas, fragmentation of patches and the introduction of weed and pest vectors.

These direct and indirect pressures on naturally vegetated foreshore areas have in many areas, compromised the natural functioning of foreshore areas.

5 LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR FORESHORE AREAS IN AUSTRALIA

5.1 LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS - WA

Protection of Lands, Waterways and Foreshore areas in WA is enabled by a number of Legislative Acts administered by a range of NRM and Planning agencies (Appendix 1). The following Section documents the range of legislation and requirements that may apply to landholdings and provide an understanding of how current legislative, policy, and voluntary frameworks guide property and environmental management and the role of government agencies in administering it.

There are several considerations relevant to land management, and water resource management in Catchments of the Mundaring Shire, for which a range of legislation, policies, and regulations apply. The key considerations are:

- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) of Native Vegetation
- Threatened Species (Flora and Fauna) and Ecological Communities (Commonwealth listed)
- Threatened Species (Flora and Fauna), Ecological Communities and Threatening processes (State listed)
- Priority Ecological Communities (State listed)
- Areas mapped as potential fauna habitat (Fauna Habitat Zones, DBCA)
- Waste and emissions including discharges
- Contaminated sites
- Clearing of native vegetation
- Wetlands
- Ecological linkages
- Water Resources Management
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (Aboriginal Affairs) Sites and Other Heritage Places
- Soil Conservation
- Land drainage and Acid Sulphate Soils
- Government Sewerage Policy.
- Swan Canning Development Control Area

5.2 LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS - EASTERN STATES

There are a range of different approaches being used across Australia including (Lovett, 2007):

5.2.1 ACT

Under the *Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991*, through the *Territory Plan 2002*, land fronting the Murrumbidgee and Molonglo rivers are zoned river corridors and management must be consistent with their respective Management Plan. For other rural land that goes to the water edge, a section of the lease Land Management Agreement will address the management of the foreshore area. Failure to comply with a Land Management Agreement will incur a penalty.

5.2.2 NEW SOUTH WALES

Under the *NSW Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997*, clearing is generally not permitted within 20 metres of the bed or bank of a stream or any part of a lake. Areas within 20 metres can be cleared only in accordance with development consent, or, if permitted, under a regional vegetation plan. Advice is generally site-specific.

5.2.3 NORTHERN TERRITORY

Under the *NT Water Act 1992*, any interference with a waterway or obstruction of flow requires a permit. A clearing application must include details of foreshore area vegetation and the *Land Clearing Guidelines 2002*, Resource Management Guidelines for the Northern Territory, Technical Report 27/2002 recommends buffer widths according to the nature and order of the waterway. To avoid erosion during activities such as construction, disturbance of banks should be kept to a minimum. In severe cases, legislative provisions under the *Soil Conservation and Land Utilisation Act 1980*, can be enacted to help protect sensitive areas.

5.2.4 QUEENSLAND

The *Queensland State Policy for Vegetation Management on Freehold Land 2000* (Department of Natural Resources and Mines) requires that 50 metres each side of first and second order streams (gullies and small streams) be left uncleared, 100 metres each side of third and fourth order (mid-sized) streams, and 200 metres each side of fifth order and larger streams (rivers).

5.2.5 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Under the *SA Water Resources Act 1997*, *Watercourses Section 9 Permits*, (Fact Sheet 27), a permit is required to alter a waterway in any way. Staff from the local natural resources management agency can provide advice about the width of foreshore area that should be protected and the appropriate plant species to be used in the process. Where possible, the foreshore area should be fenced off if stock are on the property. Foreshore area vegetation is recommended to:

- slow overland movement of water allowing the settling of soil before water enters a watercourse, thereby reducing sediment deposits into the watercourse;
- slow flood waters;
- stabilise watercourse banks, reducing erosion;

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- provide shade to watercourse to reduce water temperature and algal blooms; and
- provide habitat for animals living on land and in the water.

5.2.6 TASMANIA

The *Tasmania Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, (Wetlands and Waterway Schedule)* has variable widths, depending on the particular Planning Scheme, which, in turn, has to be consistent with State Policies. However, removing vegetation within 30 metres of the outer boundary of permanent wetlands, waterway or shoreline or estuary is generally prohibited. Local government Planning Schemes must be consistent with Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System.

5.2.7 VICTORIA

Under the *Victoria Planning and Environment Act 1987*, a permit is required where proposed activity is within 30 metres of a watercourse.

5.3 HOW ARE FORESHORE AREAS IDENTIFIED?

DWER's Operational policy 4.3 - Identifying and establishing waterways foreshore areas requires that after defining catchment boundaries and streamlines at an appropriate scale, the next step is in defining the foreshore area with the appropriate level of precision (DoW, 2012). This includes:

- Indicative foreshore area at a regional level;
- Refined foreshore area at the district planning level if risks are low and there are no significant site constraints; and,
- Final foreshore area at the local planning level, or at the district level if the risks are high, there are significant site constraints and if detailed district structure planning is being undertaken.

A foreshore area that has been defined appropriately will::

- allow compatible land uses and related development activities to occur
- maintain or improve the functions, services and biological and physical features of the waterway
- enable future restoration when restoration is recommended for degraded waterways. This may include restoring meanders in a straightened waterway.

5.3.1 PRIORITISATION STEPS

There are three steps to prioritising of management:

- Conservation precedes rehabilitation.

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- Mimic 'natural' behaviour of waterway to minimise maintenance and be cost-effective.
- Consider more difficult tasks – often sustained period of readjustment, inordinate expense without corresponding substantive outcomes and impacts on community confidence in terms of waterway management effort.

While decision making on actual management will be through consultative processes with wide ranging agendas, rigour needs to be applied to procedures to determine priorities for protection and management of watercourses. Emphasis should be on return for dollars spent, working at sites with a high likelihood of success and prove sound management following a strategy that meets biophysical, socio-economic and environmental terms.

5.3.2 STREAM BUFFER WIDTHS

The following should be considered in developing stream buffer widths:

- Geology, geomorphological processes, soil types;
- Topography (elevation and landscape units) – allowing for retention, peak flows and erosion/accretion events, hydrology and rate/variation in discharge – river processes;
- Slope, valley confinement, channel geometry, channel shape; and,
- Hydrogeology – protection of hilltop springs and Surface and groundwater interactions.
- protection of flora and fauna, critically endangered, threatened, May not be consistent with standardised buffer widths.
- Original vegetation persistent or significantly altered, major species, groundcover, linkages, foreshore area/aquatic interactions
- Fauna distribution, rarity, diversity
- Aquatic ecosystems – persistent flora, fauna, distribution, movement, location of refuge pools and maintaining aquatic connectivity
- Nutrient status
- Foreshore area condition and channel form
- Associated wetlands
- Ecological linkages

5.3.3 ADJACENT LANDUSE AND MANAGEMENT

Principles depend on percentage of the catchment that is hard stand, point source inflows, diffuse nutrient sources and relationship to stormwater inputs.

- Changes in land use patterns – rural transition to rural residential, to urban - residential, industrial, commercial;
- Changes in river form – geometry, geomorphology, natural and human induced;
- State protected lands – reserves, national parks, state forests, dams, weirs, reservoirs; • Freehold title; and,
- Waterway Crossings – impact on buffer widths.

- surrounding land uses may also generate point source pollution and the discharge of contaminants into waterways.

5.3.4 BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT

Management of bushfire risks needs to be considered when planning for vegetated foreshore areas. It is important the revegetation strategies do not exacerbate bushfire risks for adjoining built and habitable assets. There can also be risk of increased sedimentation post fire if reserves are too narrow.

Riparian vegetation is generally considered to have an extreme fire risk and require appropriate hazard separation distances. Consideration of bushfire risk management in accordance with State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas and the development of a bushfire management plan is likely to be required.

The implementation of fire breaks and turn arounds are to be planned in conjunction with community groups and minimise the impact on remnant vegetation and revegetation wherever possible.

5.4 STATE PLANNING POLICY 2.9

Draft State Planning Policy 2.9, Planning for Water, and associated Planning for Water Guidelines (DPLH, 2021a, DPLH, 2021b) provides guidance to decision-makers regarding integrated water resource and land use planning management; how land and water related provisions are implemented. The draft SPP 2.9 has status and will replace the following policies and guidance:

- 1) State Planning Policy 2.1 Peel-Harvey Coastal Plain Catchment
- 2) State Planning Policy 2.2 Gngalara Groundwater Protection
- 3) State Planning Policy 2.3 Jandakot Groundwater Protection
- 4) State Planning Policy 2.7 Public Drinking Water Source Policy
- 5) Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 - Planning for Water Guidelines (2021)
- 6) State Planning Policy 2.10 Swan-Canning River System
- 7) Better Urban Water Management
- 8) Government Sewerage Policy
- 9) Government Sewerage Policy Explanatory Guidelines.

The *Planning and Development Act 2005* empowers Local Planning Schemes with the same force and effect of the Act. This enables a scheme or strategy to make integrated land use and water resource policy.

The Planning and Development Act takes into consideration allied regulatory frameworks of agencies including the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Environmental Protection Authority, and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions . Accordingly, SPP 2.9 and Planning for Water Guidelines outlines how water resource management should be integrated into the planning processes and, amongst other things, applies to the preparation of Local Planning Strategies.

The SPP 2.9 Guidance provides generic suite of management guidance for the preparation of the Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, the implementation of which is likely to be through

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pragmatic strategies and actions to improve waterways. These strategies and actions are to inform and interrelate with the Biodiversity Strategy and Public Open Space Strategy, the environmental components of the future Local Planning Strategy.

SPP 2.9 applies to all proposals, throughout the planning procedures, prepared and assessed under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. The essential policy outcome of significance for the Mundaring Watercourses Hierarchy Strategy is Parts 6.1 (ii) and (iv): to Protect.... and support healthy ecosystems through the:

- (ii) protection of existing vegetation and or restoration of cleared or degraded vegetation, preferably with endemic species;
- (iv) maintenance of natural flows in waterways, groundwater levels and inundation of wetlands to sustain aquatic and terrestrial habitats through the delivery of appropriate stormwater and groundwater management systems.

Proposals should, in accordance with the Guidelines and accordingly have been used to devise and apply strategic actions to the Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy:

- a) identify wetlands and their buffers and waterways and their foreshore areas and/or reserves;
- b) facilitate the transfer of wetland buffers and waterway foreshore areas to public ownership, where appropriate;
- c) retain and/or restore vegetation important for the long-term health of water resources within wetlands buffers and waterway foreshore areas with the restoration of vegetation should preferably using endemic species;
- d) where possible, maintain and restore ecological linkages;
- e) identify appropriate wetland buffers and foreshore areas to protect public health from mosquito borne diseases;
- f) ensure that land uses that have the potential to significantly alter the hydrological regime are managed to protect water resources and associated ecological and aquatic values.

5.4.1 VALUES

Guidance notes related to environmental social and cultural values foreshore areas should be planned with sufficient distance between the waterway and adjacent land use(s) to allow for:

1. unimpeded movement of floodwaters during large flood events;
2. conservation of the waterway environment, including foreshore area vegetation;
3. maintenance of the natural hydrology of the waterway;
4. accommodation of elevated water levels and storm surges due to climate change;
5. management of pests and weeds, ;
6. public access and recreational use of the foreshore and the waterway, where appropriate;
7. no new installation or placement of public utility infrastructure (for example electricity, gas and sewerage) or on-site wastewater management systems;
8. views of the waterway from public places (the clearing of vegetation (or avoiding planting native vegetation) will not be justified to provide water views);
9. rising river levels and storm surges;

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10. protection and enhancement of landscape and landform, where needed;
11. adequate separation distance from disease vector and nuisance insects such as mosquitoes and midges; and
12. no direct discharge of stormwater runoff and/or mobilised groundwater (via pipes and drains for example), consistent with the *Decision Process for Stormwater Management in Western Australia* (DWER 2017).

It is acknowledged that the management of mosquitoes/midges and other nuisance insects is dependent on minimising areas of stagnant water and maintaining restoration areas, in addition to the implementation of adequate separation distances that are preferably vegetated.

5.5 SHIRE OF MUNDARING PLANNING SCHEME

Unlike most local authorities, the Shire of Mundaring's Local Planning Scheme No. 4 has a series of related clauses that implement waterways management. These are:

- 5.7.5 Development requirements
 - 5.7.6 Stormwater water provisions
 - 5.7.7 Effluent disposal
 - 5.7.9 Construction sites
 - 5.7.12 Vegetation protection
 - 5.7.14 Rehabilitation of land
 - 5.8.1 Building envelope provisions
 - 5.8.2 Dams
 - 6.6 Flood Prone Areas
- Part 6 - Special Control Areas (Water Catchment areas) and flood prone areas.

urbanplan examined the most significance clauses that stipulate mandatory requirements and offers the following commentary regarding implementation:

5.5.1 CLAUSE 5.7.5

Development requirements stipulate the minimum setback for all buildings and earthworks (including landfill) from the top of the bank of any watercourse shall be:

- a) That specified for a watercourse as given in a watercourse hierarchy and protection strategy; and
- b) in the absence of a specific setback, 20 metres in the Residential Zone and 30 metres in all other zones

Within that setback:

- native vegetation is to be retained
- natural water flow maintained
- measures to minimise runoff and erosion
- apply conditions of approval to require rehabilitation, ceding of land and conservation management.

5.5.2 CLAUSE 5.7.6

Subdivision and development shall employ best water management practices to affect the retention of stormwater within the development area to:

- minimise velocity and quantity of stormwater; and
- prevent sediment and pollution load.

5.5.3 CLAUSE 5.7.7

Clause 5.7.7 stipulates the requirements for the type of on-site effluent disposal, setbacks to waterways or sources and potential for additional setbacks where appropriate.

5.5.4 CLAUSE 5.7.9

Construction sites are required to minimise soil erosion, sedimentation and/or the degradation of any water resource and stipulate the management to be applied to a construction site.

5.5.5 CLAUSE 5.7.12

To reinforce the powers of clause 5.7.5, clause 5.7.12 prevents the destruction of native vegetation with the exception of lot within the required waterway setback.

5.5.6 CLAUSE 5.7.14

Clause 5.7.14 gives the Shire the powers to require an owner or occupier of any land to rehabilitate land in relation to soil erosion or dust, or the alteration of surface water flows

5.5.7 CLAUSE 5.8.1

Clause 5.8.1 enables the Shire to stipulate building envelope provisions across the various zones.

5.5.8 CLAUSE 5.8.2

There is a presumption against dam construction however regard shall be given to the maintenance of natural stream flow, under base flow (non- rain) conditions within the watercourse.

5.5.9 CLAUSE 6.6

Flood Prone Areas are defined by a Special Control Area planning mechanism and all building development or earthworks within Flood Prone Areas shall require planning approval and in doing so may refuse or apply conditions.

5.5.9.1 COMMENTARY

In unison, the clauses of the Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (of same force and effect as the *Planning and Development Act*) give the Shire the lead statutory authority, the powers to stipulate and apply integrated waterways management to minimise soil erosion, sedimentation pollution and or the degradation of any water resource. Particularly within an identified setback currently set at 20 to 30 metres, whether it be by stipulation in a strategy or by condition approval.

What remains is establishing appropriate waterways or foreshore areas and appropriate stormwater detention mechanisms for various Strahler stream orders, employing best water management practices for urban or rural residential or rural land use (Refer section 6.0).

5.6 SHIRE OF MUNDARING LOCAL PLANNING STRATEGY

The Local Planning Strategy sets out the long-term planning directions for the Shire of Mundaring over the next ten to fifteen years, applies the wide range of applicable State, regional and local planning policies and strategies, and provides the rationale for the land use and development control proposals in Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

It is intended that the Local Planning Strategy will be read in conjunction with Local Planning Scheme No. 4 and vice versa. The Local Planning Strategy is to guide the operation of Local Planning Scheme No. 4. It is a requirement of the Scheme that, except to the extent of any inconsistency between the two, determinations under the Scheme are to be consistent with the Local Planning Strategy. Moreover, an adopted Local Planning strategy is taken to be a document to be taken into account when making determinations.

5.6.1 OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

The objectives and aims of this Local Planning Strategy relevant to the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy are:

Function of Local Planning Strategy

- a) to set out the long-term planning directions for the Shire of Mundaring
- b) to outline, interpret and, as appropriate, apply State and regional planning policies and strategies
- c) to provide the rationale for zones and reserves, Special Control Areas and other provisions of the Shire's accompanying Local Planning Scheme No. 4.

Key strategic objectives

- a) to set promote and support sustainable development within the Shire
- b) to protect, manage and enhance the environment.

Subsidiary aims and objectives

- a) to identify and respond to significant medium and longer-term challenges facing the Shire

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- b) to manage development to actively contribute to the Shire's unique character and to protect and enhance its natural hills environment
- c) to protect and enhance key environmental assets
- d) to protect and manage biodiversity within the Shire and reduce threat to the diverse forms of life within the district
- e) to identify, enhance and preserve elements of cultural significance.

6 MOVING FORWARD: STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

6.1 CONTEXT

The following strategies and actions have been promulgated with reference to the SPP 2.9 Guidelines, namely:

- a) identify wetlands and their buffers and watercourses and their foreshore areas and/or reserves;
 - b) facilitate the transfer of wetland buffers and waterway foreshore areas to public ownership, where appropriate;
 - c) retain and/or restore native vegetation important for the long-term health of water resources within wetlands buffers and waterway foreshore areas with the restoration of vegetation should preferably using endemic species;
 - d) where possible, maintain and restore ecological linkages;
 - e) identify appropriate wetland buffers and foreshore areas to protect public health from mosquito borne diseases;
 - h) ensure that land uses that have the potential to significantly alter the hydrological regime are managed to protect water resources and associated ecological and aquatic values.
- These proposed strategies and actions are supported by the current provisions in Local Planning Scheme No. 4, those being identified in section 5.3 above.

6.2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

6.2.1 STATE POLICY SAYS

State Planning Policy 2.9 states:

- Local Strategies should map all water resources within a local government, assign each type of resource a priority or hierarchy of significance and identify appropriate setbacks or buffers.
- Application of WSUD should be integrated early into the planning progress, preferably in the structure planning phase.
- Post development stormwater conditions should approximate predevelopment conditions.

6.2.2 INTENDED APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT

The intended approach to Watercourses management includes:

- Map all waterways above stream order 3 and assign a hierarchy.
- Stormwater detention is an integral component of the urban and peri-urban landscape.
- Maintain stream biodiversity, waterway health and habitat values.
- Improve stream flow and ecological environments.
- Identify and implement setbacks to all watercourses.

6.2.3 KEY ISSUES AND THREATS INCLUDE

Altered stream environments accelerate erosion and nutrient loss.

Loss of biodiversity and damage to ecosystems occurs through:

- clearing for development
- habitat fragmentation
- introduction of invasive weeds.
- uncontrolled wildfires
- inappropriate burning regimes.

6.2.4 WATERCOURSES HIERARCHY STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy comprise:

- Identify and map waterway and ecological corridors in defined catchments through urban and peri-urban areas that require restoration.
- Establish appropriate setbacks and buffers to waterways according to Strahler stream hierarchy and priority.
- Apply stormwater detention structures strategically throughout levels of the Strahler stream hierarchy.
- Design and install stormwater structures for areas with extensive areas of hardscape to manage flow velocities and volumes.
- Establish and protect waterway corridors to maintain ecological connectivity.
- Determine appropriate separation buffers for on-site wastewater apparatus.
- Manage bushfire fuel loads and invasive weed species within waterway corridors. Retrofit stormwater flow compensation structures to manage peak flow velocities where erosion has been observed.

6.3 GIS-BASED STREAMLINE ASSESSMENT AND MAPPING

A LiDAR system flown over the Shire filled gaps in spatial information and improved the resolution of some existing coverages. LiDAR, which stands for *Light Detection and Ranging*, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure distances to features on the Earth's surface. Many thousand of light pulses combined with other data recorded by the airborne system, generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics. The LiDAR instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner and a specialized GPS positioning receiver fitted into airplanes or helicopters for acquiring LiDAR data over broad areas.

A high resolution digital elevation model (DEM) was constructed from the LiDAR data which facilitated the computer synthesis of a Strahler stream network. Small streams that have no tributaries are categorised as first order. The stream order only increases when two streams of the same category converge. A 9th order stream is only formed when two 8th order streams converge and so on. The hierarchy of streamlines described in this report was generated automatically by the Shire's GIS staff and provided to the consulting team. Automatically-

generated spatial data are entirely reliant on the quality of the method of data gathering employed and the level of ground truthing used to verify and calibrate the output.

The automatically-derived data for the Shire were combined with a wide range of other spatial coverages provided by the Shire and State WALIS agencies. It is understood that there was only a limited amount of ground-truthing undertaken and resulting coverages can always benefit from additional calibration and verification. Accordingly, it should be appreciated that the 1st and 2nd order streams that are very small, were not included in the analysis presented here, because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., ≥3rd order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.

Strategic issues have been collated as a strategic overview (Figure 3). In addition to the spatial spread of streamline-related issues across the shire, this map also shows the main waterway sub-catchments within the Shire, the Strahler stream orders 3-9 for mid-sized and larger streams, Perth Biodiversity Priority areas and the shire's existing and proposed urban cells. Total 3-9th-order watercourse lengths by landcover zone have been included as Appendix 4.

A strategic outlook has been developed (Figure 4), based on recommended actions to address the identified issues within the Shire's current and evolving legislative, regulatory and policy framework. This figure also shows a clearer depiction of the Strahler streamlines and strategic directions for the various zones across the Shire. A cross-sectional elevation profile was developed for the Shire from the provided contours (Figure 5). This acts as a key for describing and identifying zones for the Strategic outlook (Figure 4), and also presents a conceptual stormwater and an erosion management strategy highlighting slope-zones. Slopes are the dominant factor driving stream flow velocities and hence erosive potential. The implementation of policies and actions to address the determined issues and opportunities, are discussed in more detail in Section 6.

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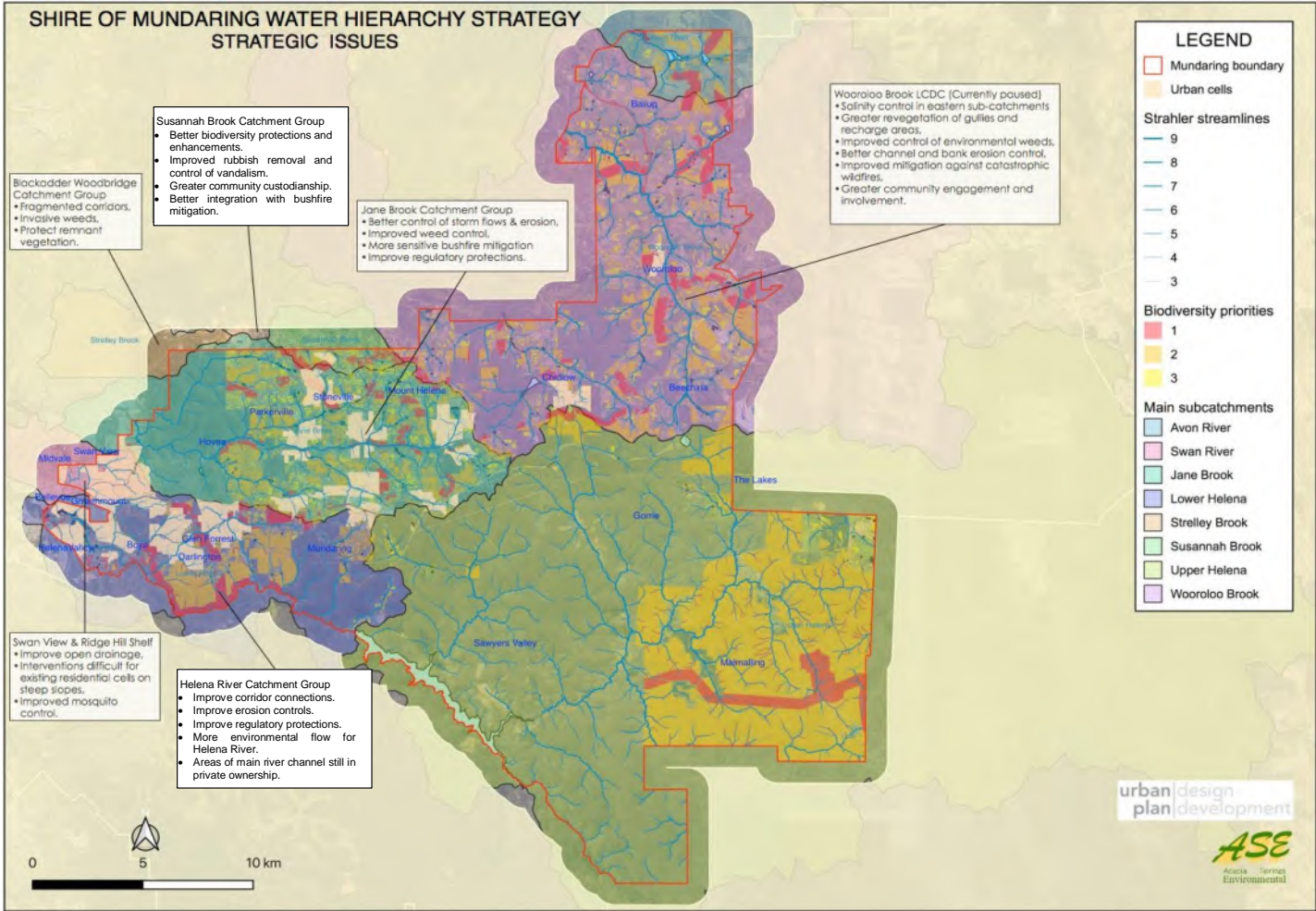


Figure 3 Strategic issues raised by community catchment group members and desktop research.

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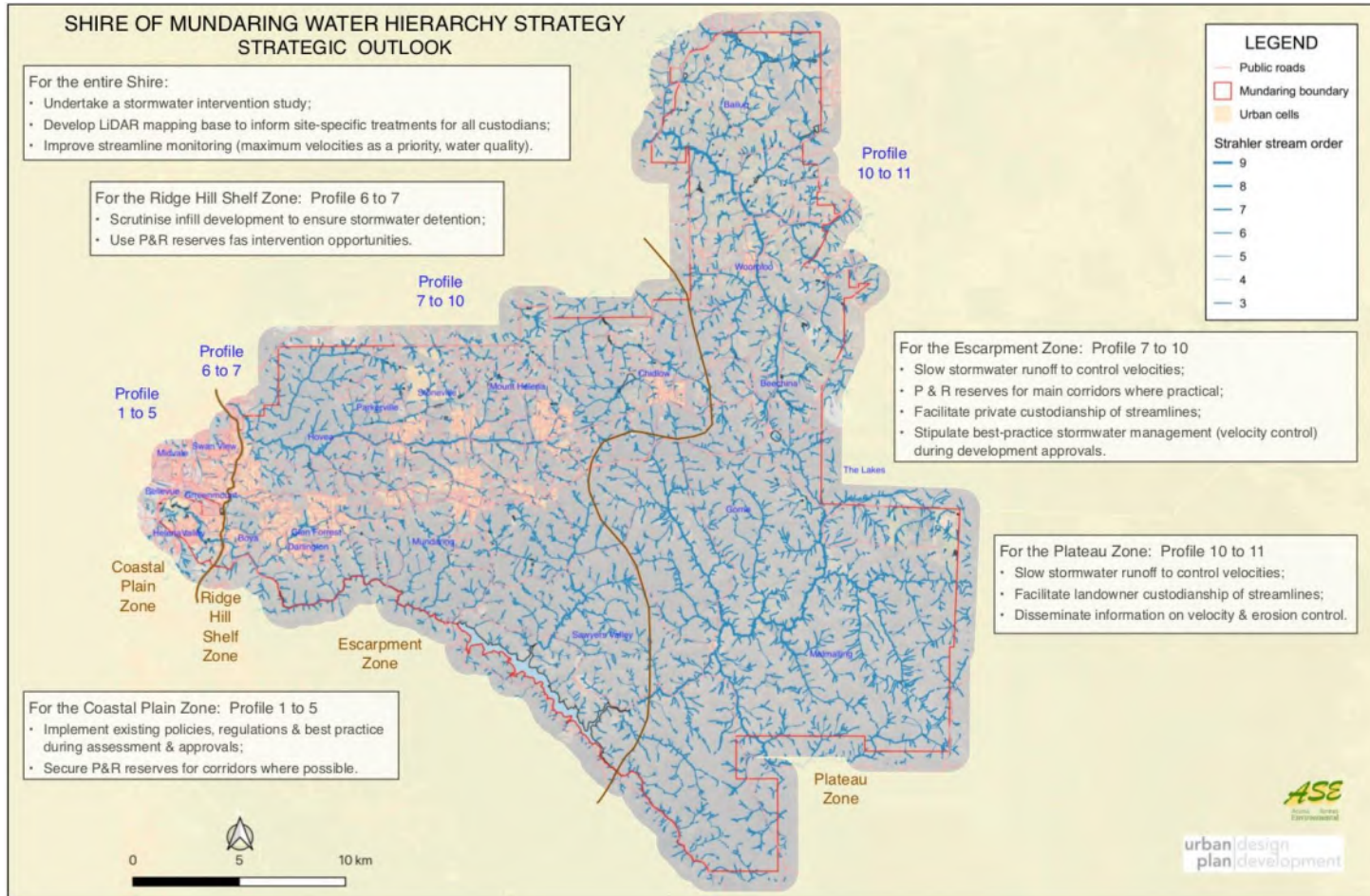


Figure 4 Strategic outlook for streamline management

Shire of Mundaring - Conceptual Erosion Control Strategy

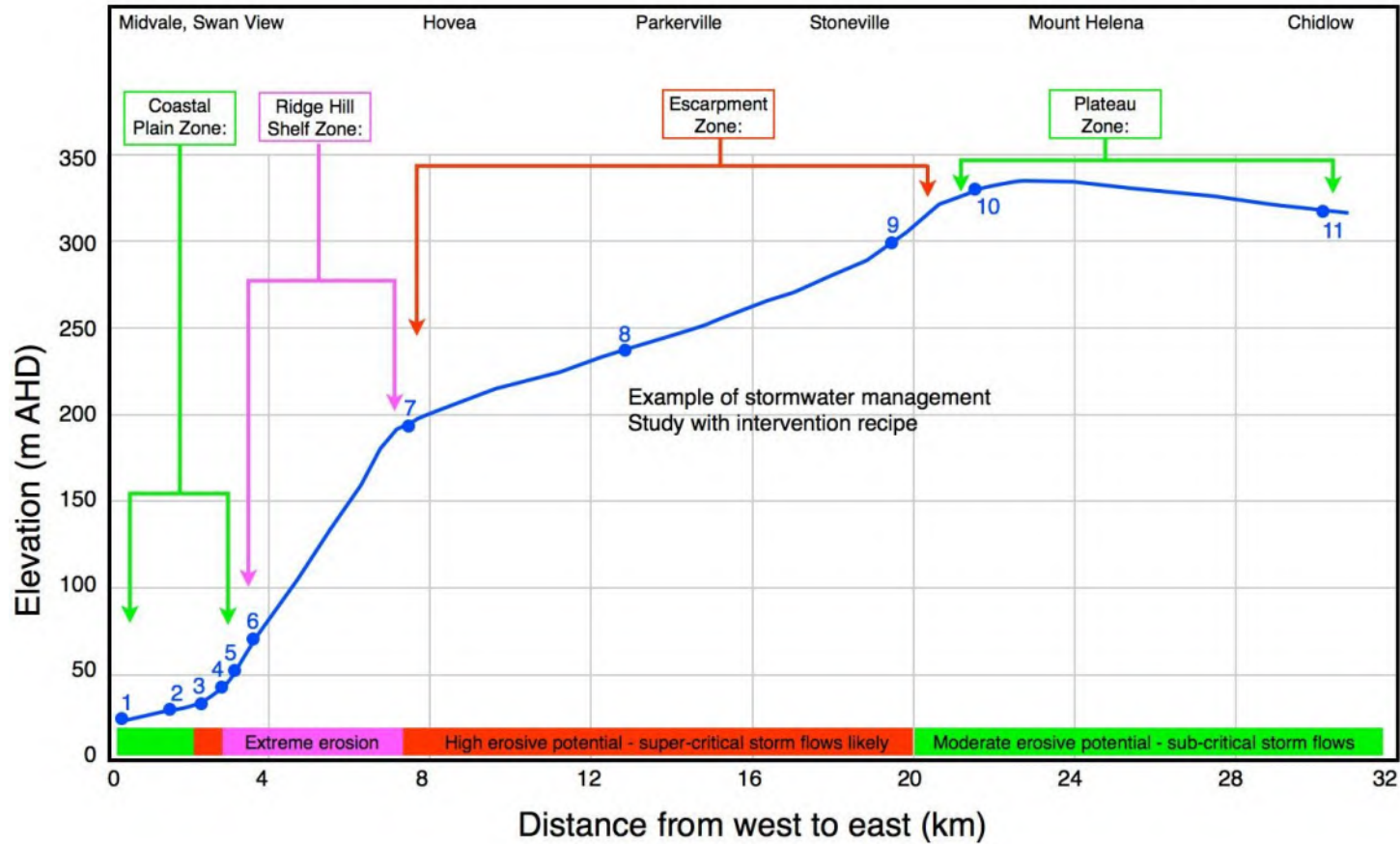


Figure 5 Profile through the shire and key to Strategic outlook diagram at Figure 4.

7 RECOMMENDED PRIORITISED AND ASSIGNED STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

7.1 GENERIC PRINCIPLES

In consideration of the priorities derived during this investigation, this Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy for the Shire of Mundaring has in essence been distilled to:

1. Better control of storm flow peak-velocities across the shire for improved erosion control.
2. Greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas.
3. To better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities.
4. To provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and educate people living near to and visiting the shire's watercourses.
5. Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors.
6. To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements so as to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.

Five case studies were established across the shire to demonstrate where and how actions and activities might improve the ecological function and protections for watercourses and their corridors (Figure 6). The case studies were chosen to represent various locations and scales in order to appropriately address watercourse hierarchy issues across the shire.

These included:

- I. a range of WSUD best management practices at various scales targeted to Mundaring's topography and hydrological processes (Figures 7 to 11);
- II. Identification of locations to improve corridor biodiversity outcomes;
- III. Locations where multiple-agency outcomes need to be met;
- IV. Applying Strahler stream order classification to the watercourses and their associated buffers throughout the shire to help target protection and rehabilitation opportunities; and
- V. To provide a database of maps and geo-located photographs of issues and opportunities.

7.2 RECOMMENDED PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR VARIOUS CATCHMENT SITUATIONS (APPENDIX 5).

- Undertake a Stormwater Intervention Study.
- Develop and disseminate a LiDAR mapping data base to inform site specific stormwater treatments for all user groups.

In applying these principles, it is recommended the Shire of Mundaring implement the following strategies and actions:

7.2.1 WATER QUALITY

- Maintain Planning Scheme provisions that require proposals with the potential to impact on water quality to demonstrate that appropriate design, infrastructure and management regimes can manage water quality risks: Shire of Mundaring (SoM).
- Implement a new clause in the Planning Scheme to require Agriculture Intensive uses with high phosphorus export hazard or very low to low land capability undertake site specific soil and land capability assessment, including testing of soils for phosphorus buffering: SoM.
- Implement a new clause in the Planning Scheme requiring the preparation of a nutrient management plan for uses that propose irrigation with nutrient rich wastewater or fertigation to ensure uses are in accordance with Water Quality Protection Note No. 33 of DWER: SoM.

7.2.2 WATERWAY SETBACKS AND BUFFERS

When considering a proposed reduction to the setback stipulated under clause 5.7.5.1, the Shire shall have regard to the following:

- a) The nature and scale of the proposed land use and/or works.
 - b) The potential for erosion as a result of any proposed works.
 - c) The likely flow amount and frequency the watercourse receives.
 - d) The type, extent and health of all existing native vegetation adjacent to the watercourse.
 - e) Whether revegetation is required, and the types of species which should be used.
 - f) Whether the watercourse has been historically modified or if the watercourse is in its natural state and alignment.
 - g) The effluent disposal system location requirements of the Government Sewerage Policy.
 - h) Whether any improvements are proposed which would improve the health of the watercourse or mitigate any impacts introduced by the development.
 - i) Whether there are any implications for bushfire risk and, if applicable, achieving the BAL-29 rating for future development.
 - j) Whether any livestock access to the foreshore exists, is proposed, or if there is the potential of this occurring.
 - k) Whether the watercourse is on existing or proposed public open space, or on private property.
 - l) The zoning of the land and the possible future land uses within the locality.
 - m) Any adopted local planning policies and state planning policies.
 - n) Any recommendations in the Shire's adopted Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy.
 - o) Any other consideration the Shire considers appropriate.
- When considering a proposed reduction to the standard minimum setback of 100 m from watercourses for septic wastewater disposal apparatus (Department of Health) may be varied where it can be demonstrated that soils within the leach field have sufficient hydraulic permeability and P-retention characteristics. Soil amendment may be required.
 - The on-going management of watercourses on freehold land is embedded in planning approvals as per Local Planning Scheme No. 4 requirements.

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- Identify and map 20 metre and 30 metre watercourses setbacks in urban and peri-urban areas respectively and include in the Shire's Local Planning Strategy.
- Protect and improve management of remnant vegetation in waterway corridors by empowering catchment groups and all landowners.
- Identify and map important biodiverse rich areas and preclude inappropriate uses with a view to establishing Special Control Areas.

7.2.3 BUSHFIRE RELATED

- Ensure that the Shire's district level Bushfire Risk Management System (BRMS) and mitigation targets adequately address:
 - bushfire fuel loads and invasive weed species within waterway corridors;
 - acceptable approaches to remnant vegetation restoration planning and management, as applied to waterway buffers and setbacks identified in the Local Planning Strategy: SoM.
 - the impacts of too frequent or infrequent and intense bushfires or prescribed burns on native vegetation.

Note: Native revegetation designed to maintain low bushfire risk (eg. plants less than 20cm height) is not usually compatible with foreshore improvement.

7.2.4 STORMWATER DETENTION

- Retrofit in-line and off-line stormwater treatment mechanisms to reduce erosion by peak storm velocities: SoM.
- Stormwater management systems should apply endemic vegetation to promote filtering, reduce velocity of stormwater runoff to approximate pre-development conditions: SoM and Proponent.

7.2.5 WATERWAY CORRIDOR VEGETATION

- Revegetate gaps in 'foreshore areas 'to reduce habitat fragmentations: SoM and Proponent.
- Replant sedges and rushes along gently sloping road drains to reduce erosion: SoM and Proponent.

7.2.6 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION:

- Establish and disseminate an electronic platform that creates a data base for the mapping of all related waterway corridor inputs. The purpose of the data base is to focus attention on stormwater intervention at the intersection of wildfire, public open space and biodiversity corridors.
- Disseminate information to the public describing the value and means of installing vegetated watercourses at all levels of the waterway hierarchy: SoM.
- Create an awareness and publicity campaign about implications of ecological corridor vandalism and benefits of rubbish removal: SoM

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- Incentivise greater community participation and custodianship in waterway and ecological corridor management by prioritising Officer site visits for waterway custodians: SoM
- Create feedback loop on Shire Webpage to obtain the location of observed invasive weed infestations and occurrence of erosion: SoM and Catchment Groups.

7.2.7 CULTURAL HERITAGE

- Approach Aboriginal Elders for advice and involvement in their cultural heritage approach to watercourses and ecological corridor management, and bushfire management: SoM.

7.2.8 PREVIOUS STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS

Of the previous strategic considerations for inclusion into the Watercourses Hierarchy Strategy is the following provision:

- Include the Helena River Salinity Situation Statement into Local Planning Scheme No. 4, matters to be taken into account, in determining applications for planning approval within the Mundaring Weir Catchment.

7.2.9 COMMENTARY

As empowered by the provisions of Local Planning Scheme No. 4, we recommend that:

- the above strategies and actions become part of the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy;
- cross fertilize these strategies with those in the Biodiversity and Public Open Space Strategies; and
- be implemented by way of inclusion in the future review of the Local Planning strategy to give force and effect.

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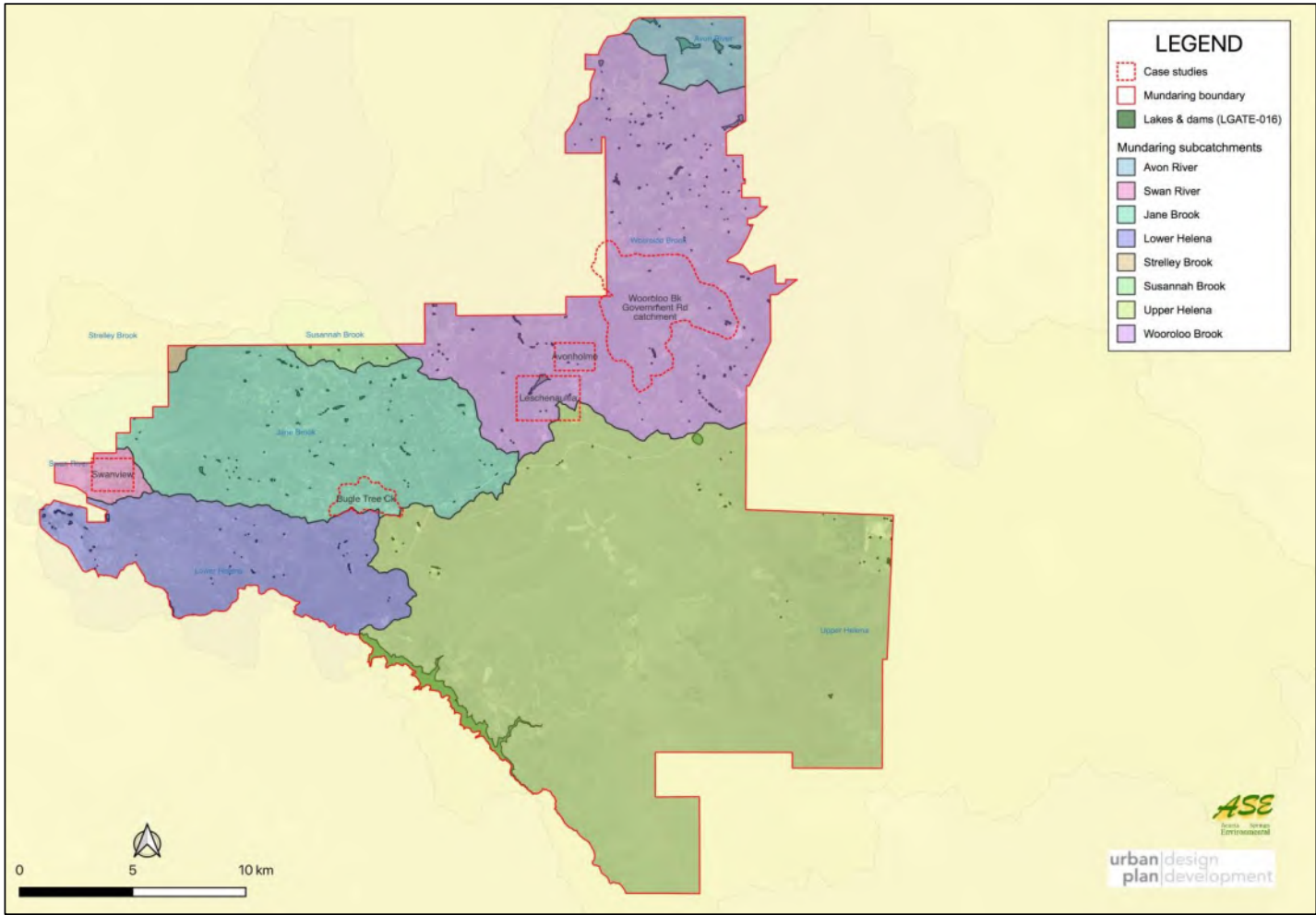


Figure 6 Location of case example areas

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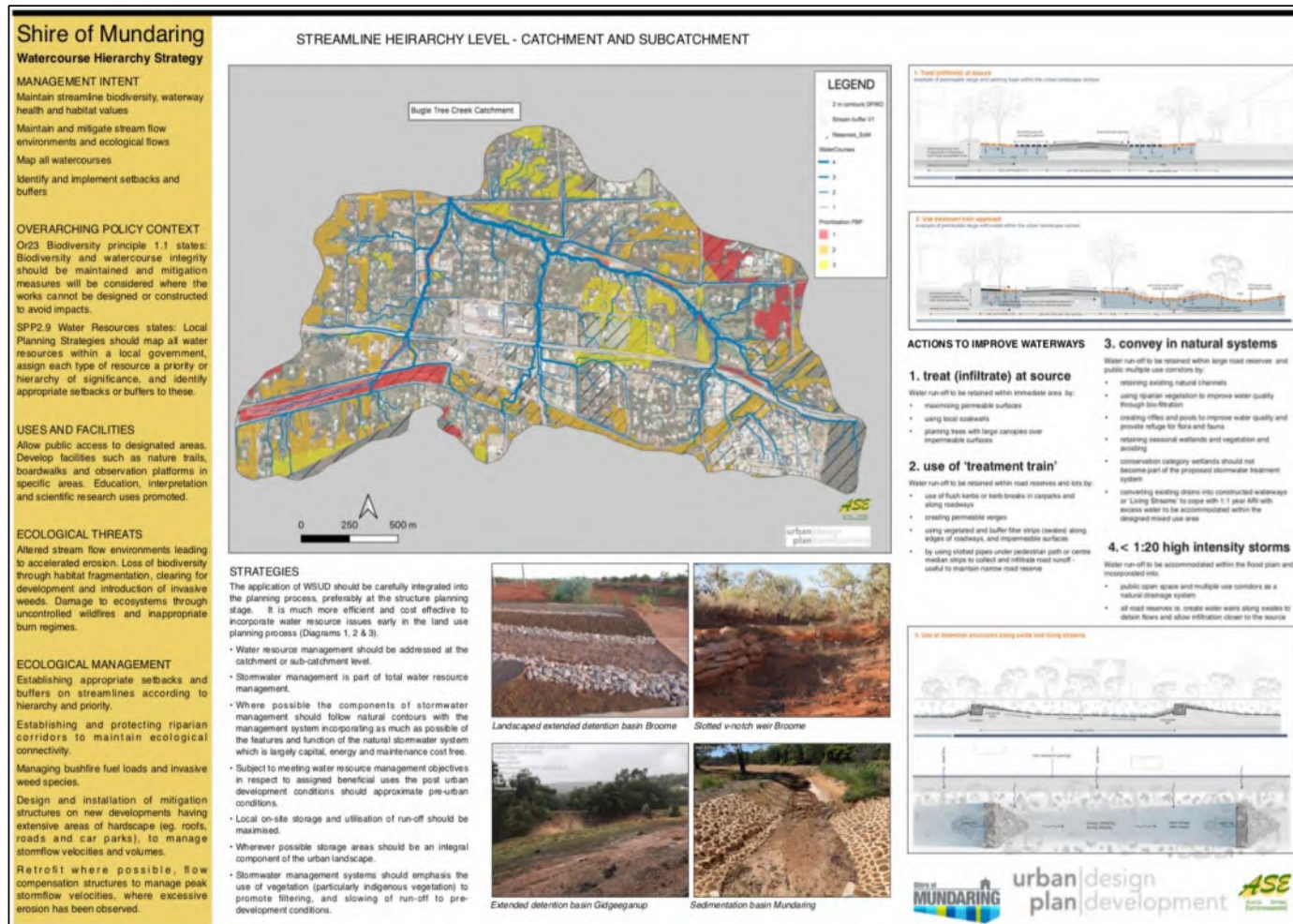


Figure 7 Catchment-scale watercourse management measures – Bugle Tree Creek

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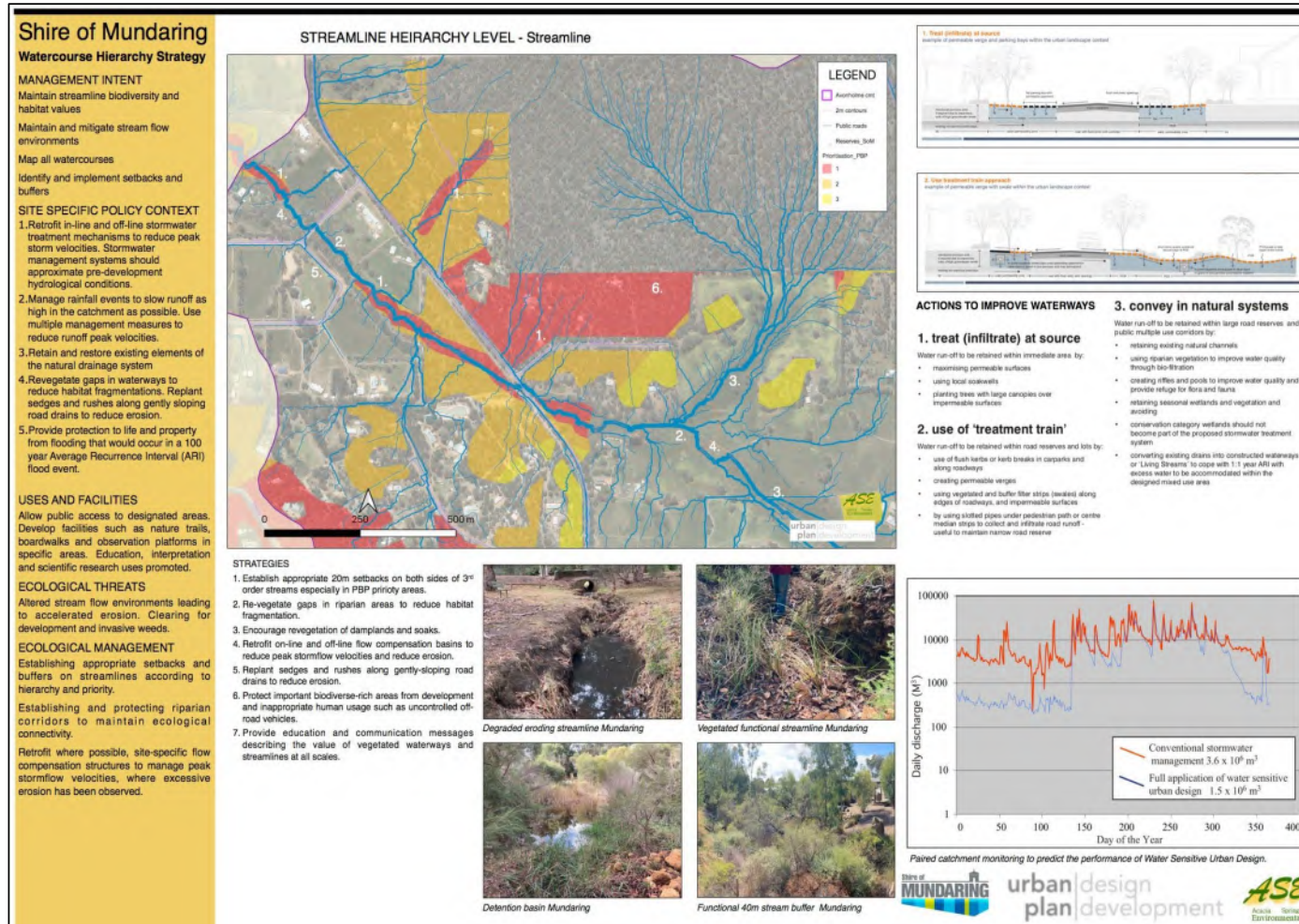


Figure 8 Watercourse management measures for the Avonholme precinct

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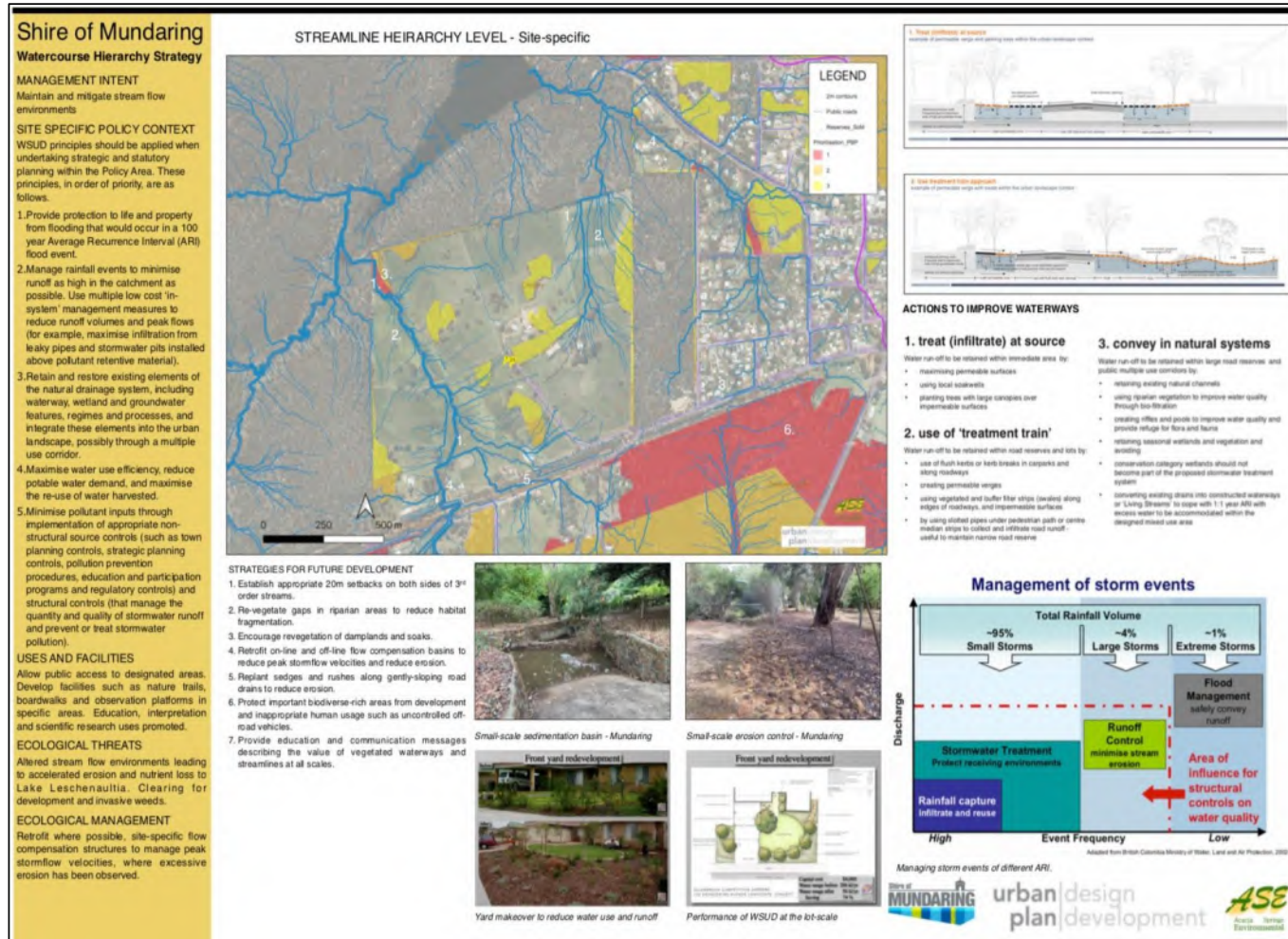


Figure 9 Watercourse management measures for the Leschenaultia precinct

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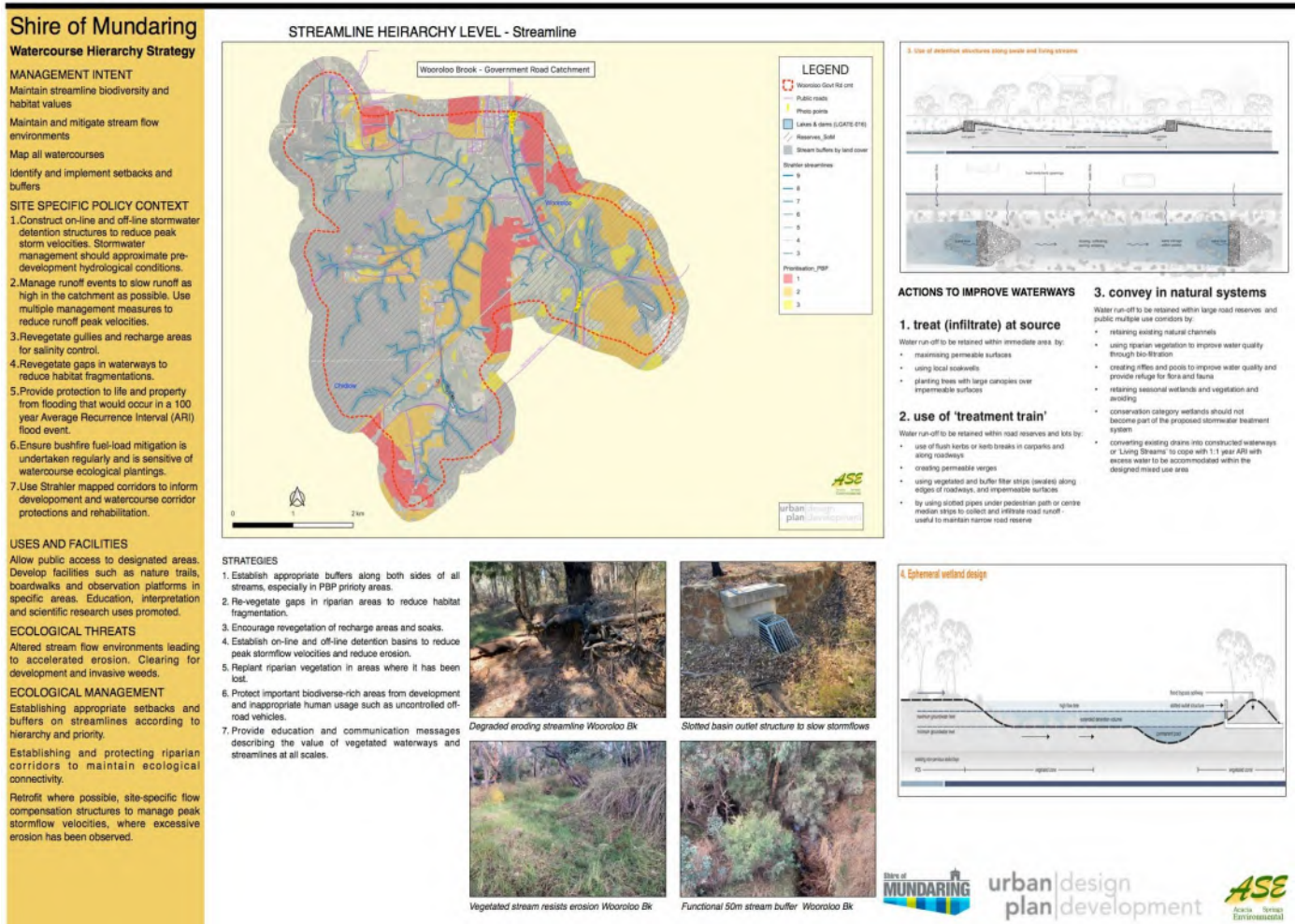


Figure 10 Watercourse management measures for the Wooroloo Bk Government Road precinct

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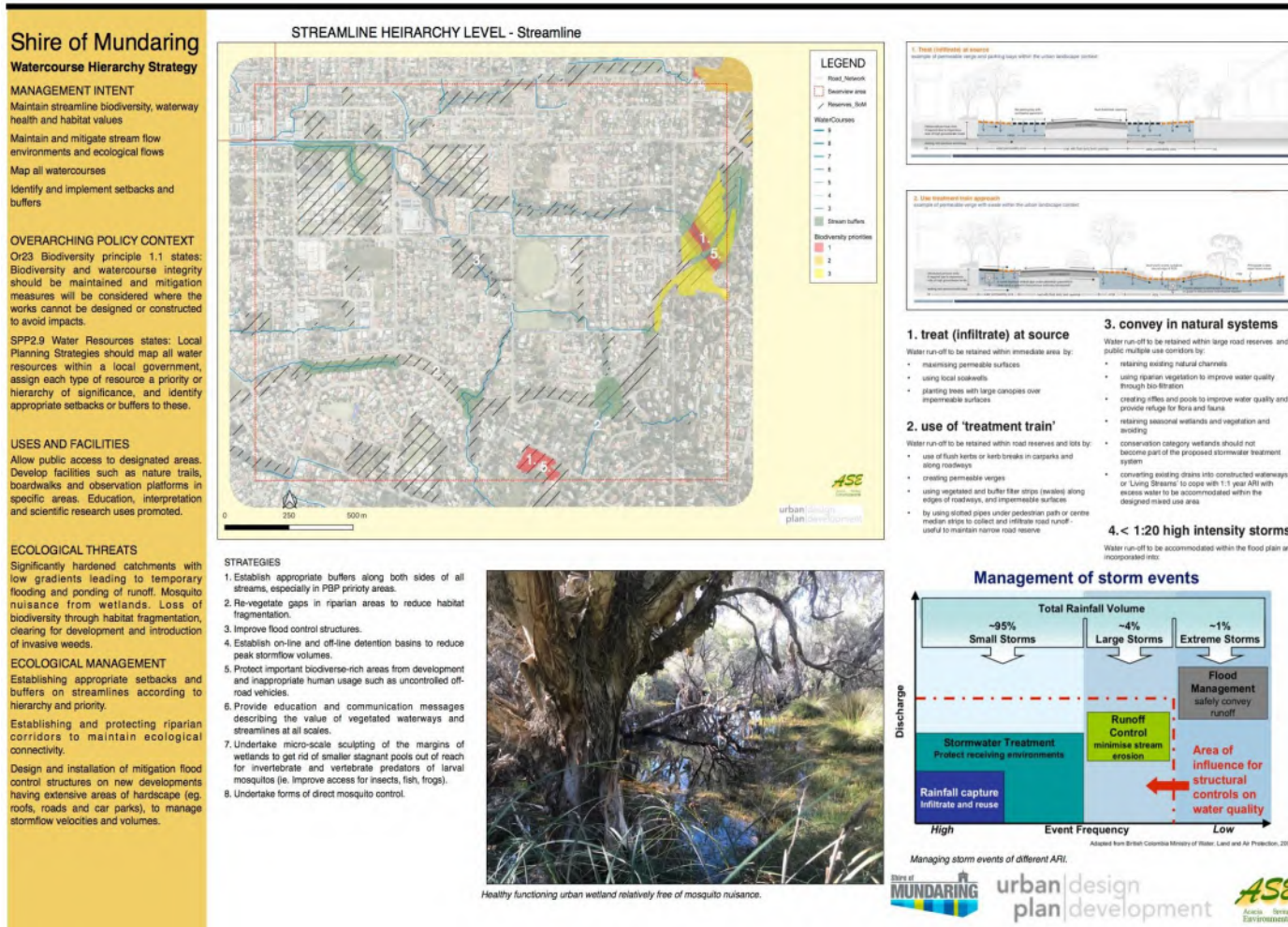


Figure 11 Watercourse management measures for the Swanview precinct.

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9 GLOSSARY

Adverse consequences	A potentially damaging impact.
Assimilative processes	Uptake and transformation of materials into other forms.
Biodiversity	A measure of variability within animal, plant and microbial communities, that applies at the level of species, family or guild, population and habitat. The concept is based on the principal that greater variability leads to more resilient and adaptable natural areas.
Bioretention	Is the process by which nutrients, sediments and other contaminants are removed from stormwater runoff using wet basins to hold runoff and allow physical and biological processes to occur.
Catchment	The area of land above a particular point that contributes stormwater runoff and streamflow. Sub-catchments are smaller areas of land that contribute runoff via individual tributaries within a larger catchment.
Coefficient of infiltration	The ratio of rainfall falling onto an area that infiltrates into the soil rather than moving over the surface as runoff. Sandy soils have much larger coefficients of infiltration than clay soils.
Dryland salinity	Dryland salinity is the build-up of salt in surface soil in non-irrigated areas, usually because of rising groundwater tables. As the soil surface dries out, salt brought to the surface where it accumulates.
Entrain sediments	To cause sediments to break from stable channel surfaces and be transported by water.
Environmental values	The range of ecosystem services provided by natural areas including water supply, flood control and mitigation, biodiversity, aesthetics amenity and spiritual nourishment.
Eutrophic	Too much available nutrient in waterways leads to excessive growth of aquatic plants such as larger macroalgae and phytoplankton. Such waterways are classified as eutrophic.
Finer textured soil	Soils are classified by the distribution of particle sizes. Sands are coarse textured soils and loams and clays are finer-textured soils.
Fertigation	The technique of supplying dissolved fertiliser to crops through an irrigation system.
Foreshore areas	The areas each side and along streams.
Geomorphology	The physical features of the surface of the earth and their relation to the underlying geology.

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Groundwater seepage	The slow percolation of groundwater out of a soil.
Harmful phytoplankton	Particular types of phytoplankton or microscopic plants in waterways, that contain toxins that have the potential to harm animals and humans by either ingestion or contact with skin. Dinoflagellates (red tides) and blue-green algae are two such types of potentially harmful phytoplankton.
Hydrological buffering	The process of damping down extremes of water movement. Catchments having much of their original vegetation intact, have greater levels of infiltration into the soil, lower peak flow velocities and erosion and more flow seeping out during summer. All of these processes increase a catchment's hydrological buffering and benefit plant and animal communities.
Incised	Cut into a surface.
Infiltration	Permeation of rainfall into soil.
Intermittent drainage	A stream or waterway that flows only at certain times of the year.
P leaching	When P is lost from the soil into surface runoff or groundwater.
LiDAR	Stands for <u>L</u> ight <u>D</u> etection <u>A</u> nd <u>R</u> anging. A remote sensing technique using Laser pulses to accurately measure distance from the light source to reflecting surfaces. LiDAR is typically used to create images of the land surface at fine scale.
Peak velocities	Peak velocities of stormwater flowing in natural channels during intense rainfall events are the periods when erosion is greatest. Controlling peak velocities through design reduces erosion.
Perennial	Lasting or existing for a long time.
P-fixing soils	P is an essential nutrient and a soil's P-fixing capacity governs its ability to bind P for either release to plants or to be lost by leaching.
Refractory	Readily decomposable.
Residence time	When applied to water falling on a catchment, residence time is a measure of how long the water stays within a catchment. Short residence times usually mean higher flow rates and erosion and greater amounts of runoff moving offsite to the ocean.
Sedimentation	The process of settling or deposition of small and large soil particles being transported in stormwater.

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Strahler stream order	The Strahler system classifies the joining of streams and tributaries. A first order stream has no other streams flowing into it. When two streams with different orders join, the resulting stream has the same order as the highest order of the two joining streams.
Stream dynamics	The way streams flow during high and low-flow periods is influenced by the slope of the land, soil types, vegetative cover and the degree of disturbance to natural processes.
Land tenure	Land ownership or management by private citizens, companies and Government agencies.
Watercourse	For the purpose of this Mundaring Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order Strahler Streams mapped across a catchment using LiDAR having equal to or better than 5 cm vertical resolution.
Waterway	Any stream, river, canal or lake. Also called watercourses.
Water Hierarchy Strategy	For the purposes of the Shire's Local Planning Scheme No.4, represents the ' <i>watercourse hierarchy and protection strategy</i> ' as referred to in clause 5.7.5

Appendix 1: Legislation relevant to managing foreshore areas by agency

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Commonwealth

The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) is the Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places — defined in the EPBC Act as “matters of national environmental significance”. EPBC listed threatened species and Threatened Ecological Communities (TEC) can be searched from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website: Threatened Species and Ecological Communities page. The listing of threatened species and communities identifies species that are at greater threat and risk of extinction.

State Government

The three pieces of state legislation that protect environmental assets and that are relevant to the waterway within the Shire of Mundaring are the:

- Planning and Development Act 2005
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Environmental Protection Act 1986
- Conservation and Land Management Act 1984.

The *Planning and Development Act 2005* and associated *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* empower local authorities through local planning schemes to undertake land use and development management with the same force and effect of the *Planning and Development Act* itself. The Act enables the creation of State Planning Policies. SPP 2.9 recently released envelopes all previous water resource policy into one integrated state policy that interrelates other agency legislative policy.

The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* provides for the listing of threatened native plants (flora), threatened native animals (fauna) and threatened ecological communities that are in need of greater protection. Those listed as being critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species are under increased identifiable threat of extinction (species) or collapse (ecological communities). Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected fauna or flora are species which have been adequately searched for and are deemed to be, in the wild, threatened, extinct or in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such. Possible threatened species or ecological communities that do not meet survey criteria are added to DBCA's Priority Species and Ecological Community lists.

The Act also provides for, or outlines the process for (e.g., what is in them and how they are approved), recovery plans and other modern features of biodiversity conservation and management. The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* applies to all tenure in the State. The Act also provides for recovery plans and other modern features of biodiversity conservation and management. The *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* applies to all tenure in the State.

The Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2018 and the Wildlife Conservation (Rare Flora) Notice 2018 have been transitioned under regulations 170, 171 and 172 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2018* to be the lists of Threatened, Extinct and Specially Protected species under Part 2 of the 2016 Act.

According to these regulations, it is an offence to “take” or disturb threatened species (flora and fauna) (any species but fines are greater for damage or disturbance to threatened species) or their critical habitats unless the person is authorised (by the Minister) under Section 40 and complies with the conditions. The *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 (WA)*, applies to DBCA managed land only, and establishes a comprehensive set of legislative provisions dealing with state conservation and land management matters. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

DBCA administers a number of Acts and associated regulations including the abovementioned *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. DBCA promotes biodiversity and conservation through sustainable management of WA’s species, ecosystems, lands and the attractions in its care. DBCA has responsibility for on-ground management of *CALM Act* lands (DBCA-managed lands). DBCA provides specialist advice and information on biodiversity and off sets to the EPA for its assessments under Part IV of the EP Act, to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and to proponents. DBCA may also implement off sets that arise as outcomes of these processes. Clearing provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (EP Act)* are administered by DWER with advice sought from DBCA.

The *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006 (SCRM Act)* aims to ensure that land use planning and development protects and enhances the ecological health, amenity and heritage value of the Swan Canning river system. DBCA has overall planning, protection and management responsibility for the Swan Canning river system under the SCRM Act. The Swan River Trust is an advisory body created by the SCRM Act and provides independent, high-level, strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and DBCA on matters affecting the Swan and Canning rivers.

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)

DWER also has responsibilities related to the protection of the environment. These responsibilities are set out below.

Clearing of native vegetation:

Under Section 51C of the *EP Act*, clearing of native vegetation is an offence unless undertaken under the authority of a clearing permit, or the clearing is subject to an exemption.

Clearing is not permitted in Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) except for maintenance of existing railways or roads, or in accordance with the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*. There are ESAs in proximity to waterways within the

Shire of Mundaring. ESAs are declared by the Minister for Environment under Section 51B of the EP Act.

Contaminated sites:

The *Contaminated Sites Act 2003 (CS Act)* is administered to ensure contamination is identified, recorded, managed, and remediated. Under the CS Act, landowners occupiers, and persons who caused contamination must report known or suspected contaminated sites. Anyone else may report suspected contamination. DWER assesses each report and determines the appropriate classification for the site in consultation with the Department of Health.

Unauthorised discharges:

Under the *Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges Regulations 2004) (UDR)*, it is an offence to cause or allow certain materials to enter the environment in connection with a commercial or business activity. The purpose of the UDR is to cover discharges into the environment from business or commercial activities; which individually are not serious enough to cause pollution and breach the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 but cumulatively can cause harm. The UDR are intended to ensure that all people engaged in a commercial activity take responsibility for preventing the escape of contaminants from their business into the environment.

Drainage, Salinity and Soil Conservation

The principal Act is the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945*. This can be used to create covenants to protect vegetation in foreshore areas. Concerning land drainage for the purpose of controlling salinity, *SLC Regulations (1992)* which sits under the *SLC Act (1945)* require owners or occupiers to notify the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation before any groundwater drainage takes place. The Commissioner does not approve 10 h, p://www.water.wa.gov.au/licensing/water-licensing/types-of-licenses 11

Note: DWER also grants permits under the *Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947* to clear native vegetation near water. h, p://www.water.wa.gov.au/licensing/water-licensing/types-of-licenses cawsdrainage. The Commissioner will either object or not object based on the assessment of the proposed works. To date, the Act has been used concerning drainage linked to salinity concerns in the Wheatbelt rather than to urban situations. Drainage that does not need to be notified applies for most surface water management.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

State Government

The *Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984* is the lead legislation for water resources management: coordinating across government: conserving, protecting and managing water resources; assessing water resources; planning for the use of water resources; promoting the efficient use of water resources; promoting the efficient provision of water services; preparing plans for and providing advice on flood management.

The *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (as amended) provides for the regulation, management, use, and protection of water resources. Under Division 1A (Ownership and control of waters) of this Act, the right to the use and flow, and the control, of the water at any time in any watercourse, wetland or underground water source is vested in the Crown (Division 1, 5A of the Act). The Act provides for a licensing system for taking water; and a permitting system for activities that may damage, obstruct or interfere with water flow or the beds and banks of watercourses and wetlands in proclaimed rivers, surface water management areas, and irrigation districts.

Licensing only applies to certain watercourses in WA that are proclaimed under the Act. In relation to the Jane River and its tributaries, this Catchment is unproclaimed and there is no licensing regime in place currently. However, there are general restrictions that apply to these areas under the legislation; for example, owners of foreshore area land may only take water to the extent that flow in the watercourse is not sensibly diminished (Sec. 20, 1, c of the Act). A permit is required to interfere with waters or bed and banks of the watercourse where the river is situated on Crown land. It is also an offence to obstruct the watercourse on Crown land, including the discharge of mud, earth, gravel etc. into the watercourse without authorisation. Landholders do not require a permit for works where the river is on freehold property.

This Act provides for the power to prohibit drainage works that are likely to affect the water in a watercourse, wetland or underground water source.

Relevant to this Plan is the legislation, regulations and by-laws dealing with waterways and groundwater which are administered by DWER. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) assists the Minister for Water in administering current legislation.

The WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) issues licences and permits under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* to:

- Take water
- Construct wells (including bores and soaks)
- Interfere with the bed and banks of a watercourse.

DWER looks at the potential risks of each groundwater license application on a case by case basis in deciding whether to grant or refuse a licence, and also the terms and conditions that may be imposed.

To mitigate risks to water resources or the environment associated with the take and use of water, DWER often require that licensees monitor and report on their abstraction activities and where necessary implement contingency programmes where trigger levels are exceeded or unexpected changes to water quality or aquifer response are observed.

Water monitoring and reporting requirements for Scott River landholders are established on an individual basis. Generally, commercial water users are required to implement a monitoring program which includes metering their abstraction volumes and monitoring both surface water (where relevant) and groundwater quality. In terms of groundwater quality both the pumping aquifer and shallow groundwater up and down hydraulic gradient of the water use activity are considered.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

Legislation dealing with the land surrounding some of the waterways is administered by DPIRD. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) carries out the requirements of the *Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945* to mitigate and prevent land degradation throughout Western Australia.

DPIRD set its priorities for declared pests by a declaration under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act)* through the Minister for Agriculture. All species that were declared under the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* have been transitioned to have equivalent declarations under the BAM Act.

Regulation 7 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013* allows for the establishment of categories of declared pests for both animals and plants. Regulations have been implemented since May 2013. It is the landholders' legal obligation to manage/control invasive species (weeds and feral animals) on their land. Under the Act, there is a greater responsibility for the community and industry to identify, prioritise, and control already established biosecurity threats, with the support of DPIRD. The new focus of the Department will be on preventing the emergence of new pests and diseases within WA and controlling those that do slip in.

Heritage

Aboriginal heritage sites are afforded protection under statutory law. Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act, 1972*, the Department of Planning Lands Heritage (this used to be a competency of the former Department of Indigenous Affairs) (DPLH) works with Aboriginal people to protect and manage places of significance.

The new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021 (ACH Act) will provide a modern framework for the recognition, protection, conservation and preservation of Aboriginal cultural heritage while recognising the fundamental importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal people.

Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH)

The DPLH provides advice to the public and private sectors and the community about Aboriginal heritage management and maintains a Register of Aboriginal sites. The Department's role is to ensure that Aboriginal heritage and engagement with Aboriginal people is built into planning and management processes. Information about heritage sites can be obtained through the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System (AHIS), an internet-based search tool. The AHIS provide details about the location, extent, and assessment status of each place under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. Statutory requirements for undertaking specific works in registered areas apply.

An Aboriginal site means any place to which the AHA applies by operation of Section 5 of the AHA. The Act is currently under review. <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/information-and-services/aboriginal-heritage/protection-under-the-aboriginal-heritage-act-1972> community about Aboriginal heritage management and maintains a Register of Aboriginal sites. Landholders who own the land where an Aboriginal site (registered or not) is present and who want to use this land e.g., for development, may need to apply for consent from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs to do so under Section 18 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

After the Minister considers the recommendations of the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) and also regards the general interest of the community, he or she will either grant consent to the use of the land for the purpose sought or decline to give consent to the use.

If the Minister consents, conditions may be attached to the use of the Section of land. "Where land users conclude that impact to a site is unavoidable, the consent of the Minister must be sought under Section 18 (s18) of the Act. Notice must be given to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee (ACMC) accompanied by the information as to the intended use of the land and sites on the land." Also: If you are planning to enter, excavate, examine or remove anything on an Aboriginal site, you are required to seek authorisation under Section 16 (s16) of the Act.

Non-Mandatory GuidelinesCodes of Conduct

For the dairy industries the WA Practice for Dairy Shed Effluent (Western Dairy, 2012) is voluntary. It is part of their Dairying for Tomorrow initiative which supports dairy farmers to increase their farm productivity while at the same time reducing their environmental footprint. The plantation industry has a Code of Practice with guidelines to regulations and legislation specific to WA. This is the Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in Western Australia. Some requirements are mandatory and others are voluntary.

The purpose of this Code is to provide goals and guidelines to plantation managers so that plantation operations in Western Australia are conducted in a manner that is in accordance with accepted principles for good plantation management, whilst recognising that a primary aim of plantations is to be economically competitive and sustainable. Standards also include the Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) Standard (FSC, 2018) and the Australian Standard

for Sustainable Forest Management (AS 4708) (AFS, 2013) which provides forest managers with economic, social, environmental and cultural criteria.

DBCA Conservation Programs

Roadside Conservation Program

Roadside vegetation plays an important role in the conservation of Western Australia's plants and animals and particularly in the peri-urban areas where there are many species only existing in these thin remnant strips. The native vegetation in roadsides is sometimes far more important than in other areas.

In heavily cleared landscapes, the vegetation in the road reserve acts as a wildlife highway, enabling animal movement between large patches of bush. It also provides essential habitat to flora and fauna. The visibility of roadside vegetation can provide locals with a defined sense of place based on easily identifiable characteristics they recognise as "home". Roads cut across the landscape, giving a cross Section of vegetation communities within the landscape. Thus, wide road reserves fulfil dual roles: transport and conservation.

It should be noted that the Western Australian Roadside Conservation Committee has been disbanded and DBCA no longer has responsibility for a roadside conservation program.

Nature Conservation Covenant Program

The Nature Conservation Covenants Program began in the Metropolitan area. DBCA offers landowners the opportunity to use conservation covenants to protect the nature conservation values of their properties. The Nature Conservation Covenant is a voluntary, legally binding document that has provisions restricting activities that might threaten the land's conservation values. There are also non-voluntary covenants. Every conservation covenant is individually negotiated between DBCA and the landowner, and aims to maintain the conservation values of the bushland whilst allowing for flexibility to reflect the landowner's wishes for the land. Typically, there are restrictions such as no clearing, mining, grazing or cats and dogs must be on leashes. Often no one is allowed to enter property. The landholder may get a tax concession and in some cases a rate concession.

DBCA Land for Wildlife

DBCA's Land for Wildlife program began in 1997. There are registered Land for Wildlife properties in the Mundaring Catchment.

Soil and Land Commission Conservation

Landowners who wish to protect and manage native vegetation on their property may enter into an agreement (covenant) with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation under s30 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945.

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The Soil and Land Conservation Act provides for two types of covenants:

- Conservation Covenant which is irrevocable. The term of these covenants is usually specified for perpetuity or a period of time. Once finalised, the Commissioner does not have statutory authority to vary or discharge these covenants.
- Agreement to Reserve (ATR) which is not expressed as irrevocable. These covenants may be in perpetuity or for a specified time and may be varied or discharged by the Commissioner.

Appendix 2 Regulatory and other actions

Table 3 below summarises the nutrient loadings to the Swan Estuary from within the Mundaring Shire and adjoining areas. It shows only modest export of N and P from these hills catchments compared to the coastal plan catchments. Appendix 3 provides a preliminary list of legislatively protected land and foreshore areas within the Mundaring Shire. In considering options to improve stream water quality and the environmental quality of foreshore areas, it is prudent to review how recent changes in regulations have impacted on foreshore area management.

Urban water management plans do not allow for management of issues such as:

- inadequate fall from the stormwater detention basin into the natural waterway;
- influx of extremely hot water from hardstand bitumen roads during summer storms into waterways causing direct invertebrate and flora kills due to excessive water temperatures – insufficient containment away from the receiving water bodies;
- insufficient space for habitat and recreation to co-exist;
- edge effect issues increasing the cost of maintenance and management for councils – need to improve ratio of vegetation depth to length to reduce weed impacts;
- no gross pollutant or chemical traps and these are no longer a standard installation in the stormwater management system;
- Width of reserve needs to allow for at least four/six metre management access (use firefighting arguments including turning circles), plus conservation and sufficient room for groundwater penetration and retention to encourage groundwater recharge rather than surface flow disappearing from high in the catchment as fast as possible.

Smart regulations

Establishing by-laws, regulations, incentives and policies to link rights and responsibilities to better management of waterways and contributing lands. Regulation can be effective for localised issues such as pollution.

Higher levels of government are actively seeking to devolve responsibility/delegate many aspects of land management to local government, community groups, Landcare groups and individuals. Many of these people feel they lack the skills, finances and technical knowledge to achieve what is being asked of them. Developer contributions can assist here.

Table 3 Average annual flow, nitrogen and phosphorus loads and loads per unit cleared area for Jane Brook and the Helena River from 1997 to 2006.

Catchment	Area (km ²)	Cleared area (%)	Average annual discharge (ML)	Average annual nitrogen load (tonnes)	Nitrogen load per cleared area (kg/ha)	Average annual phosphorus load (tonnes)	Phosphorus load per cleared area (kg/ha)
Jane	137.7	49	14800	11	1.65	0.58	0.09
Helena	175.7	36	4880	5.8	0.92	0.23	0.04

It may be time to step back if possible, and get beyond simplistic 10% multi-use corridors that include conservation, water management, recreation, bushfire management, emergency access amalgamated within them.

Weed control to protect existing vegetation communities is one of the most cost-effective and cheapest options. Enhancement of remnant vegetation and protection of "waterlogged" peripheral land – beyond the floodplain are also important priorities.

Conservation incentives

Rate reductions, assistance with fencing, weed management proportional to scale of foreshore reserve can all assist local land holders.

Appendix 3 List of legislatively protected areas in the Mundaring Shire

BUSH FOREVER SITES Outside the MRS

- BF Site 215 – over the Helena River

DBCA LEGISLATED LANDS AND WATERS

- Beechina North Nature Reserve
- Beelu National Park
- Mundaring State Forest
- Greenmount National Park
- John Forrest National Park
- Leschenaultia Conservation Park

FUTURE SUBDIVISION ISSUES – main suburbs where there is space

- Bailup
- Malmalling (Postcode 6556)
- Wooroloo
- Gorrie

FORESHORE CONDITION REPORTS (1999)

- Wooroloo Brook
- Helena River
- Jane Brook
- Blackadder Creek

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

- Beechina
- John Forrest National Park
- Three small areas on western boundary of shire

EXISTING LOCAL STRUCTURE PLANS (WITH WATERWAYS ADJACENT)

- Hayden Street Trimble Road, Mt Helena
- Coothalie Road Chidlow
- Thomwick Cres, Betty, Northcote Street, Old Northam Road, Chidlow
- Beacon and Richardson Road Parkerville
- Woodlands Road Stoneville

Appendix 4 Total watercourse length by land cover zone.

Landcover zones were inferred from the SLIP region scheme and LPS zones and reserves data

SLIP zone	Σ watercourse length	Percentage of Shire total
Commercial, Industrial	4.8	0.2
Infrastructure cleared	46.5	2.0
Infrastructure vegetated	40.1	1.7
Parks, Recreation, Schools	3.1	0.1
Residential	124.2	5.4
Rural	204.7	8.9
Rural residential	573.1	24.8
Reserves	1310.0	56.8
Waterways	1.1	0.0
TOTAL	2307.6	100

Watercourses include Strahler stream orders from 3 to 9.

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Appendix 5 Stormwater management measures for various catchment situations

1
water sensitive urban design
for low intensity events <1:1ARI

grid reinforced lawn

pervious and open cell pavement

soakwells and rainwater tanks

permeable gravels

wsud principals

The model below demonstrates the concept of a 'Treatment Train'

A series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in pervious soils wet like-leaking pipes throughout the entire drainage management scheme slowing and infiltrating stormwater. Transient floodwaters are conveyed through natural systems.

permeable surfaces

Permeable pavement is an infiltration system where storm water runoff is infiltrated into the ground through a permeable layer of pavement or other stabilized permeable surface. These systems can include porous asphalt, porous concrete, modular perforated concrete block, cobble pavers with porous joints or gaps or reinforced/stabilized turf (Morton and Stecker, 1996). A new mind set is needed when designing stormwater management systems.

pervious pavements

Permeable pavements are particularly useful for crossovers, driveways, streets and in residential areas, also parking in commercial areas. This type of pavement is not effective in areas that receive runoff with high amounts of very fine sediment due to the tendency of the pores to clog.

Permeable pavements require maintenance including periodic vacuuming or jet-washing to remove sediment from the pores.

1. Treat (infiltrate) at source


example of permeable verge and parking bays within the urban landscape context

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2 water sensitive urban design for low to moderate events 1:1 - 1:2 ARI

small storm events
flush kerb / kerb openings
pollutant removal
pervious naturestrips

swales



Swales are linear depressions or channels that provide for stormwater collection conveyance and infiltration. Swales may simply be grass-lined or more densely vegetated and/or landscaped. Slotted pipes or part of the verge being permeable will serve the same purpose as swales.

While swales provide for stormwater conveyance and infiltration, they also lend themselves to the screening or removal of

Gross pollutants, such as litter and coarse sediment, from stormwater runoff.


In urban areas, swales may be used as an alternative to the conventional street naturestrip, central median strips or runoff collection points in carpark areas. Swales can reduce run-off volumes and peak flows. Current designs involve the use of grass or other vegetation (such as native plants or rushes) to carry out this function.

(Information: MelbourneWater 2002)

Advantages of Swales

- can reduce and delay storm run-off
- retains particulate pollutants close to source
- more aesthetically appealing than kerb and gutter
- relatively inexpensive to construct

swale pollutant removal

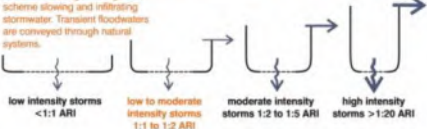




Swales initially immobilise pollutants, by binding them to organic matter and soil particles.

Setting, filtration and infiltration into the subsoil achieve effective pollutant removal. Certain pollutants, such as hydrocarbons,

wsud principals
The model below demonstrates the concept of a 'Treatment Train'.

A series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in pervious soils act like leaking cups throughout the entire drainage management scheme slowing and infiltrating stormwater. Transient floodwaters are conveyed through natural systems.



may be digested and processed by the soil microorganisms in the filter strip.

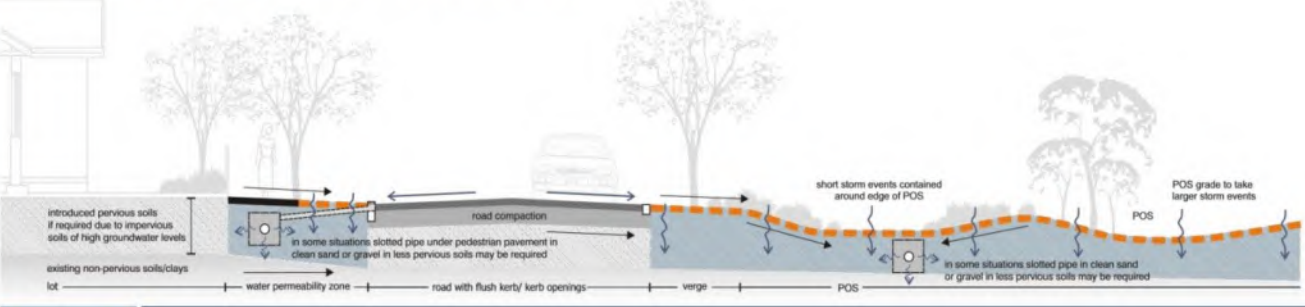
Consequently, adequate contact time between run-off and vegetation and soil surfaces is required to optimise pollutant removal.

(Information: MelbourneWater 2002)

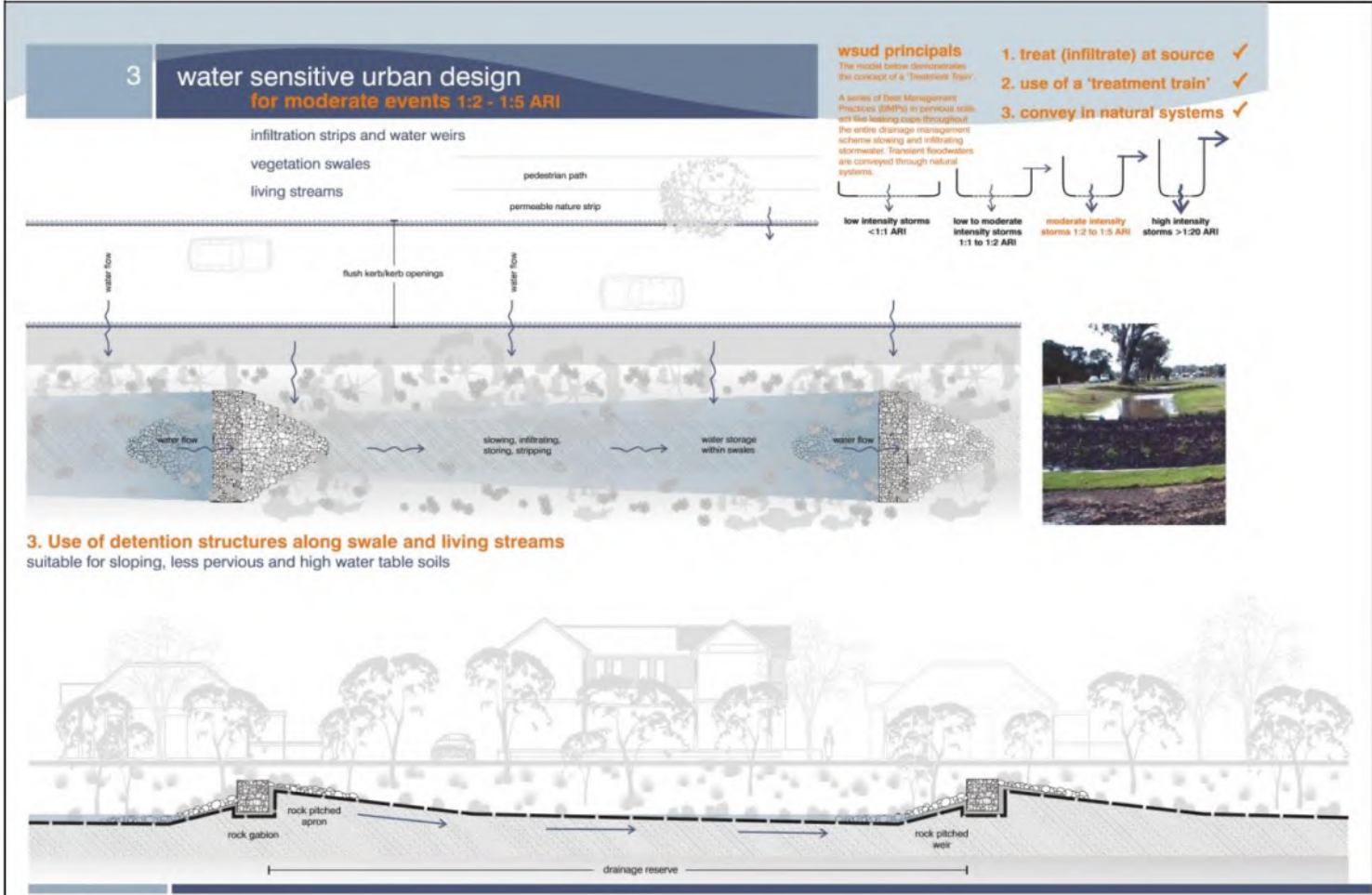
Limitations of Swales

- Limited removal of very fine sediment and dissolved pollutants
- Requires larger land area than kerb and gutter, with certain activities restricted (for example, car parking)
- Sunny aspect is required for plant growth, limiting its application in shaded areas,
- Only suitable for gentle slopes (less than five per cent)
- Regular inspections are required

2. Use treatment train approach
example of permeable verge with swale within the urban landscape context



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4

water sensitive urban design
for high intensity events $4:20\text{ ARI}$

wsud principals

The model below demonstrates the concept of a 'Treatment Train'.

A series of Best Management Practices (BMP's) in pervious soils act like leaking coops throughout the entire drainage management scheme slowing and infiltrating stormwater. Transient floodwaters are conveyed through natural systems.

1. treat (infiltrate) at source ✓

2. use of a 'treatment train' ✓

3. convey in natural systems ✓

ephemeral wetlands

living streams

infiltration basins in public open space

natural waterways and floodplains

ephemeral wetlands and living streams

Putting native vegetation back along streamlines and wetlands, or incorporating it into new drains, not only achieves the narrow objective of creating biofilters, it also creates a more attractive landscape, as well as completely in summer. These features may

The realisation of this has fostered the broader objective of creating living streams of native plant and animal communities.

A living stream is a complex ecosystem supporting a wide range of plants and animals.

An ephemeral wetland may have significant amounts of water within it over winter and less water in summer.

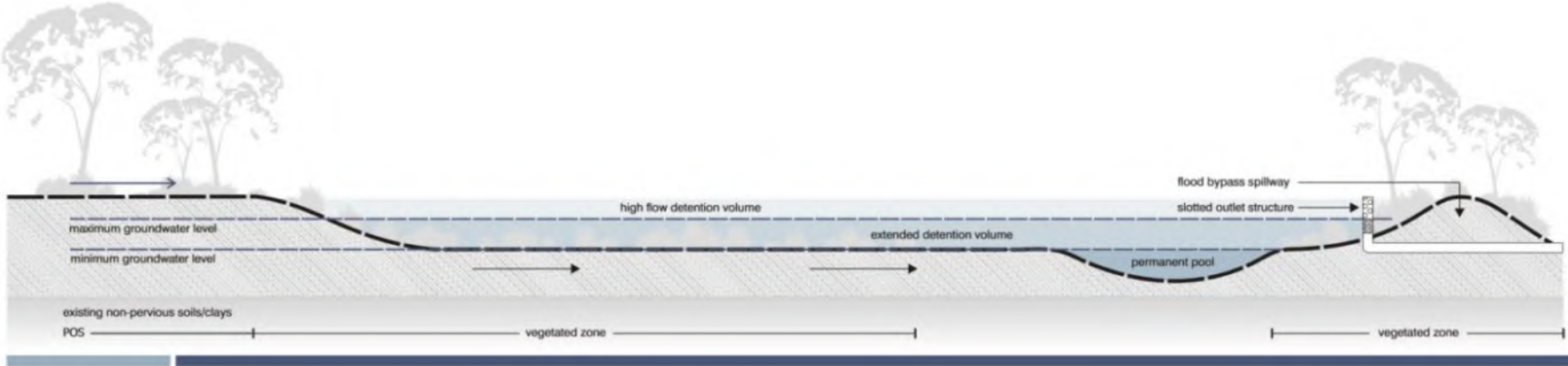
Living streams and ephemeral wetlands have stable vegetated banks with many plant species.

Living streams and ephemeral wetlands provide a refuge for bush birds and other native animals and are an important part of our cultural and spiritual heritage.

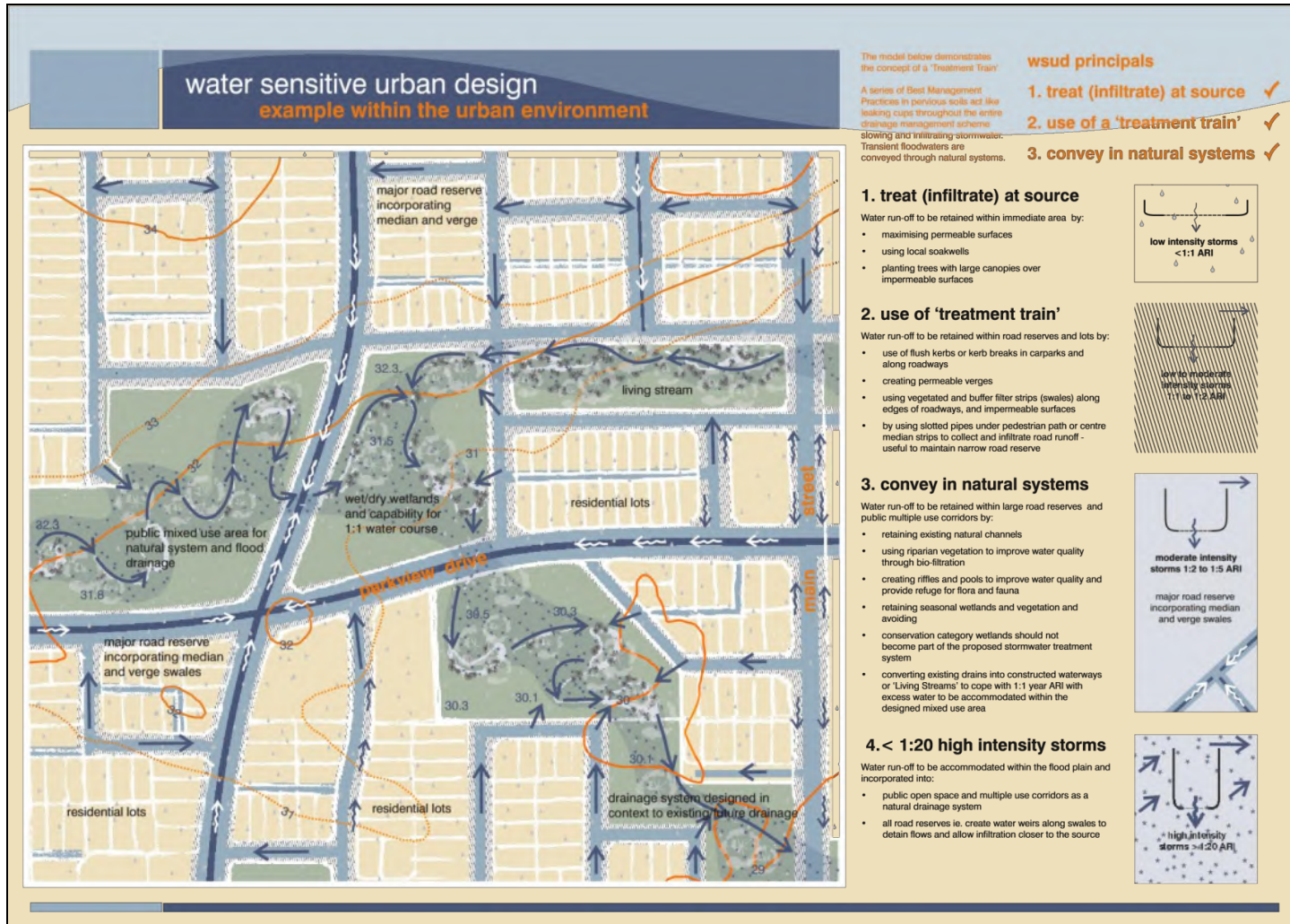
4. Ephemeral wetland design

example of wet/dry wetlands within the urban landscape context

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**SCHEDULE OF SUBMISSIONS
Draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy**

Submission Number	Comments	Officer Comments
<p>Submitter 1</p>	<p><u>Support</u></p> <p>I really look forward to the strategy as we are very keen to do the best we can for the section of natural bushland and the creek line that runs through our property.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Submitter 2</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>I am really interested in understanding more about the Improved erosion control in the Strategy, particularly that of Jane Brook that runs through my new property and how the Strategy progresses towards actions within the Shire.</p> <p>Many of the trees lining the banks have been undermined, particularly where the Brook bends, with some trees that have fallen over into the Brook. Whilst I can safely remove the trees / logs, how can the Shire assist with management of the banks, so that further damage can be avoided ?</p>	<p>Bank and bed erosion have been observed across the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS. Predictions of increasing frequencies of extreme weather and rainfall conditions have raised concerns over increased velocities of stormwater runoff and subsequent increases in erosion.</p> <p>It is already a requirement under LPS4, as outlined in the draft WcHS, that development adjacent to watercourses shall incorporate appropriate measures to minimum erosion.</p> <p>It is a recommended action of the draft WcHS to better control storm flow peak velocities across the Shire for improved erosion control. Also, it is a recommended best-practice for stormwater management for various catchment situations, for the Shire to undertake a Stormwater Intervention Study.</p> <p>In applying the above, it is recommended that the Shire implements the strategies and actions stipulated under section 7.2 of the draft WcHS.</p>

<p>Submitter 3</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>When building I was told that no water could leave the block which meant that we were forced to pay for large underground tanks and that all of the rainwater that would have left the block and diluted the polluted water in the street drains was prevented from doing so. This is a poorly thought out rule that should be abolished to add more clean water to the creeks etc. Alternatively or possibly as well the Shire should be stopped from draining the heavily polluted road collected rain water that it currently spews into our creeks from its drains.</p>	<p>Noted, however, in accordance with the stormwater management requirements under the State Planning and Building legislation, all stormwater from development is to be contained on the development site.</p>
<p>Submitter 4</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The build-up of leaves and branch offcuts that are being placed around growing plants builds up in the drain and Nyaanie Creek and blocks up our bridge under our driveway. Children often use this material when playing in the drain (this runs along the side of our property). Having said this the native plants that are being tended to are looking terrific. 2) Every winter the stormwater pipe that runs under Glen Forrest Drive opposite our property, continuously creates a build-up of silt in Nyaania Creek on our property. We are having to clear this build-up to let the stormwater flow into Nyaania Creek freely. 3) Our concern regarding erosion. Open drain on Lot 100 that runs into Nyaania Creek. There is a "dog leg" where this drain meets Nyaania Creek that is eroding the soil around 2 large white gum trees on the fence line abutting our property. The trees are getting taller, the erosion is getting wider. Can this be assessed to ensure safety for our home. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Noted. 2) Noted. 3) Bank and bed erosion have been observed across the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS. Predictions of increasing frequencies of extreme weather and rainfall conditions have raised concerns over increased velocities of stormwater runoff and subsequent increases in erosion.

	<p>4) Lot 100 (corner of Hardey Road and Glen Forrest Drive) is noted as a dog exercise area. Nyaania Creek runs through this area. With natural waterways comes wildlife. Therefore why are dogs permitted to run around off leads so close to a natural waterway. Bandicoots, ducks, ducklings, bobtails etc. cannot survive dog attacks.</p>	<p>It is a recommended action of the draft WcHS to better control storm flow peak velocities across the Shire for improved erosion control. Also, it is a recommended best-practice for stormwater management for various catchment situations, for the Shire to undertake a Stormwater Intervention Study.</p> <p>4) In December 2017, Council resolved to specify Lot 100 Hardey Road, Glen Forrest (excluding the community garden facility) to be a dog exercise area (C6.12.17). When public notice was given proposing to specify the subject site, amongst others, as a dog exercise area, no objections were received.</p> <p>While off the leash in dog exercise areas, dogs are required to behave in a way that does not create a nuisance or threat to people and animals.</p>
<p>Submitter 5</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>It was a shame that there were no representatives from the Helena River Catchment Group (HRCG) - (different to the Lower Helena Catchment Group) on the Focus Group as the group has managed extensive projects along the Helena River. I note that the Lower Helena Group was apart of the focus group, however their management area is different to that of the HRCG. I also note there wasn't a case study done along the Helena River; the Helena River is one of the main waterways in the LGA.</p> <p>As a landowner with property that abuts the Helena River, I have with and without the assistance of the HRCG removed weeds such as Watsonia, Narrowleaf Cottonbush, Figs and Blackberry and have replanted with endemic flora. To engage and increase involvement from landholders with river foreshore areas the Shire</p>	<p>Initial discussions regarding the draft WcHS were held with the various catchment groups within the Shire at a workshop on 16 February 2022. A representative from the Helena River Catchment Group (HRCG) was present at this workshop. Subsequently, when the draft WcHS was being advertised the HRCG was directly contacted by the Shire, as well as the other catchment groups, notifying them of the opportunity to provide comment on the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

	<p>needs a dedicated officer to assist landholders with their weed control, feral management and revegetation projects to increase biodiversity. It is difficult to navigate the process of performing works along the river, particularly obtaining permission from DBCA (Swan River Trust Form 7), Aboriginal Heritage, Shire's Planning Department regarding the removal of trees under the relevant legislation.</p> <p>Landholders need to value the waterways via education, information and assistance from the Shire.</p> <p>The City of Armadale has an excellent program for landholders called Habitat Links (formerly Streamcare) which provides personalised technical advice and assistance to landholders with waterways on or near their properties as well as those with remnant vegetation or near high conservaton reserves to create corridors and connections to natural areas (could crossover with your LBS). The program also provides free local native plants, habitat boxes and other resources to the participants of the program.</p>	<p>Recommended actions regarding this are outlined under section 7.2.6. of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Submitter 6</p>	<p><u>General comments</u></p> <p>Would just like to comment to report on a real concern of mine which threatens the waterways and John Forrest National Park. We have been battling with a weed along the creek line, it is a root stock Ash, we alerted the council to this problem a number of years ago, and attempts were made to remove the plants via poisoning, however it wasn't successful. These are a deciduous tree, that seeds, and sends root suckers, and we have been attempting to remove for over 5 years. Recent injecting of poison via a specialist has been reasonably successful, but this tree is apparent throughout much of Parkerville and Hovea and is spreading into the Falls Park and beyond. It needs to be recognised as a real issue and dealt with accordingly.</p>	<p>Noted. These concerns have been forwarded to the Shire's Environment department for investigation and to take (where necessary) any appropriate action.</p>

<p>Submitter 7</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>Overall we are greatly encouraged by the strategic and practical recommendations as they align with our personal environmental values and reinforce the environmental principles we envisaged when we first purchased our current property in Forge Drive Chidlow sixteen years ago (having lived at another Chidlow address for the preceding 22 years). We also strongly identify through personal experience with the challenges discussed in the strategies and are positive that the issues and impacts of the past can be corrected and our watercourse protected and enhanced into the future.</p> <p>General Comments</p> <p>1. Aboriginal Consultation</p> <p>Section 7.2.7. CULTURAL HERITAGE is noted however we must state from the outset our disappointment that Aboriginal people are not included until page 35 of the document and there are only two references in total, the second being on page 50 where there is a brief, 3- sentence explanation of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972</i> and the new <i>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021</i> (ACH Act). We would have liked to see Aboriginal stakeholders identified and included in 2.4 APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT. We feel this is a missed opportunity to combine the unique and authoritative wisdom and knowledge held by Aboriginal people with the (European) data, scientific and legislative information referred to throughout the strategy. We believe a better approach would have been for Aboriginal voices to codesign the draft WcHS from its inception which would be a demonstration of the value the Shire places on Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation as traditional custodians of the land within the Shire of Mundaring and recognition that the watercourse threats and issues we are now trying to work through are a direct result of colonisation.</p>	<p>Noted. As part of the consultation process the Shire invited the Whadjuk Aboriginal Corporation and the Ballardong Aboriginal Corporation to provide comment on the draft WcHS.</p>
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	<p>2. Consider developing a Hierarchy of Control tool for watercourse management. Hierarchy of Control is a very common tool used in workplaces and other environments today that is familiar to most people. This way, landowners will be able to clearly see the best way to manage environmental hazards, all stakeholders will have the same point of reference and complaints should be more straightforward to manage. For clarity, the model we are suggesting is Eliminate, Substitute, Isolate, Engineering, Administrative, PPE (although PPE would of course be watercourse protective equipment such as a cover). Although there will not be a one-size-fits-all approach to rectifying the mistakes of the past and the current state of the watercourses, having an easy to read/interpret symbol and simple actions to follow may be a good start to getting everyone on the same page.</p> <p>Personal Experience relating to the Strategy</p> <p>2.2 Shire Profile</p> <p>We echo the sentiment in the strategy and confirm we expect the Shire to provide the community with leadership and direction in the protection and maintenance of the natural environment. We have long campaigned for the protection of the watercourse traversing our property from pollution and sedimentation resulting from the neighbouring upstream property, because we recognise the local environment and therefore the downstream river systems can be so easily be compromised. Based on our experience trying to address issues with the Shire, we agree that regulation alone has not worked to generate an increased awareness or desire in sections of the community to learn and apply better land management practices. In fact we believe our experience demonstrates that regulation has been counterproductive to the aims of pre-existing strategies because it has lulled the Shire and sections of the community into a false sense of security, thinking that we can give special permission for practices outside of existing regulation if we attach even more regulation such as planning conditions, even when monitoring and upholding the regulations is</p>	<p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>completely unsustainable from a human resources and financial perspective.</p> <p>2.3 Watercourses Hierarchy Strategy Approach</p> <p>We are pleased the Shire recognises that land development has brought about changes to watercourses and the need for restorative action. We have demonstrated to the Shire on many occasions since 2007 degradation of the watercourse on and downstream from our property due to silting, clogging with pollution and weed infestation resulting from an approved Horse Riding School and Stable development which permitted overstocking (5 horses and 5 ponies on a 5.111 hectare property) and by virute of inaction, also permitted poor stock management (failure to remove manure on a daily basis, escape of excess supplementary feed into the watercourse, failure to exclude horses and ponies from the riparian zone). We look forward to the Shire reviewing the principles by which they make development decisions and making clear processes available to landowners when they seek to be more effective custodians. Our experience in trying to hold the Shire accountable to their decisions and policies in the interests of protecting the natural environment has been an extremely negative one and we came to the conclusion that the Shire was not actually interested in the environment at all. We say this because on occasion, our concerns regarding the aforementioned development acting contrary to the approval conditions and Shire policies have been taken seriously and the Shire has informed us that they have taken appropriate investigative and corrective action, but as the development has repeatedly flaunted the conditions and policies and the damage has compounded we are left wondering how effective or interested in following up high risk properties the Shire has actually been. We have also increasingly felt a dismissive and even hostile response from the Shire when we have tried to raise new instances of environmental damage caused both by what the Shire has deemed an allowable condition (overstocking) and by the development's continued practice of breaking the numerous conditions and policies attached to the development approval</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>without serious action taken to stop it. In our experience, the Shire has not historically acknowledged, at least on a personal level with us, the damage caused by inappropriate development and we are glad there is a renewed commitment to restoring rather than destroying the environment.</p> <p>3.4 How do riparian areas function?</p> <p>The relevant points to our property are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting water quality by trapping sediment, nutrients and other contaminants • providing an interface or buffer between developments and waterways <p>The Shire has allowed the Horse Riding School and Stable development in the absence of a vegetated and protected riparian corridor. The Shire has not required the restoration or rehabilitation of the corridor. Sediment and particulate solids enter the watercourse in a few ways. They are deposited directly into the watercourse by the horses and ponies as they drop their manure or distribute feed such as hay through the watercourse (because they have unrestricted and permanent access to the watercourse). They are carried by the wind or transported by water runoff due to the lack of vegetation to filter and attenuate.</p> <p>The sediment is only trapped when it enters the silt trap constructed on our property. This creates an unfair burden on us as we are then responsible for maintaining the function of the silt trap (ie digging it out and appropriately dealing with the material) which largely if not exclusively, only becomes silted because of the neighbouring development. The silt trap also helps to trap some particulate solids. We would therefore like the Shire to consider supporting our efforts in maintaining the silt trap by providing the necessary machinery and personnel to clean it out annually.</p>	<p>If the submitter has concerns regarding how this land use is operating it is suggested that they liaise with the Shire's Planning Compliance Officer so that it can be investigated whether it is operating in accordance with the applicable legislation.</p>
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	<p>4.1, 4.2 Runoff and Sediment Transport</p> <p>We are glad the Shire recognises these impacts of development. Runoff and sediment transport due to stock compaction and lack of vegetative cover is a significant issue in our situation and we hope this can be rectified through the application of the recommendations in the strategy.</p> <p>5.5.1, 5.5.2 Shire of Mundaring Planning Scheme</p> <p>The existing standards are noted. In our situation, the setback seems not to have been applied to the earthworks (riding arena) of the neighbouring Horse Riding School and Stable development. We also note the corresponding information in the Shire's Guidelines for Keeping Stock 2017 which states in section 4 <i>"No buildings or development (including the keeping of stock) are permitted within 30m of any creek or watercourse, unless otherwise approved by the Shire."</i> As explained in our comments under 3.4, 5 horses and ponies (minimum) have permanent and unrestricted access to the watercourse.</p> <p>5.5.9.1 Commentary</p> <p>We trust that with this strategy, the Shire will be invigorated to fulfil its authority. In our experience, our waterway has suffered sedimentation, pollution and degradation despite our best efforts to bring issues to the Shire's attention and best water management principles have been ignored.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>If the submitter has concerns regarding the land use it is suggested that they liaise with the Shire's Planning Compliance Officer so that it can be investigated whether it is operating in accordance with the applicable legislation.</p> <p>Bank and bed erosion have been observed across the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS. Predictions of increasing frequencies of extreme weather and rainfall conditions have raised concerns over increased velocities of stormwater runoff and subsequent increases in erosion.</p> <p>It is a recommended action of the draft WcHS to better control storm flow peak velocities across the Shire for improved erosion control. Also, it is a recommended best-practice for stormwater management for various catchment situations, for the Shire to undertake a Stormwater Intervention Study.</p>
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	<p>6.2.1 State Policy 2.9</p> <p>We would be very excited to be part of any process and see the results of mapping for our and related waterways.</p> <p>7.2.1 Water Quality</p> <p>In our view, these recommendations will greatly improve environmental outcomes. We agree that planning proposals need to be interogated with a water-first attitude.</p> <p>We welcome a new clause prohibiting stocking rates greater than currently recommended.</p> <p>We have had direct experience living with the affects of stocking rates greater than recommended and can attest to the environmental damage, loss of amenity, conflict between neighbours and decline in personal wellbeing. Not only is it a bad idea in the first place to allow stocking rates greater than recommended, it creates a rod for the Shire's back in dealing with the inevitable problems. Can the Shire please confirm whether this will apply retrospectively and if so, the plan for implementing the revised stocking rates for individual properties?</p> <p>How the Shire can support us to look after natural areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better control of storm flow peak-velocities for improved erosion control. a) Take terrain into consideration when assessing planning and development applications for risk from pollutants, sedimentation etc. Potential pollutants will follow the natural slope of the land and in a high intensity storm will have a greater likelihood of becoming actual problems where there is a slope towards watercourses than if the terrain is flat. 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Refer to the recommended actions under section 7.2.1 of the draft WcHS.</p>
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	<p>b) Easy to use self-assessment tool (maybe an interactive virtual property map) provided to landowners to identify where storm flow should be managed on their property and choose strategies for control.</p> <p>c) In the same way that firebreaks and other fire management requirements are communicated and inspected in the lead up to summer, communicate and inspect erosion control measures in the lead up to winter. This can in part be done via aerial mapping, at least to identify at risk properties (does not entirely require a "boots on the ground" approach).</p> <p>d) Listen to responsible and caring landowners when we report substandard/damaging storm flow and uncontrolled erosion. Understand and appreciate that we seek to protect the environment, not to cause menace to the Shire or other landowners; display leadership and provide positive direction so that the best outcome is achieved for the environment.</p> <p>2. Greater focus on protection and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and residential areas</p> <p>a) Have a focus, through the existing Seedlings for Landcare program on watercourses. Information and seedlings for watercourses are currently available in the program but it would be good to have a "watercourse pack" that takes the guesswork out and addresses the planting conditions which may be different to other garden planting. For example, do we plant in the bed, the bank, the broader corridor? Do we add compost or soil improver? Do we use fertiliser? How do we mulch (if it is required)? The pack could also include information on traditional noongar plant names, uses, benefits, relationships to seasons/wildlife/cultural practices.</p>	<p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.5 and 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p>
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	<p>b) Offer an expert assessment to landowners with watercourses that includes a protection and rehabilitation management plan and feedback loop so progress can be reported and tweaks made to the plan according to what is/isn't working.</p> <p>3. Better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities</p> <p>a) Establish a reference group made up of agency and community representatives, and traditional owners, to do things such as provide feedback to the Shire on the implementation of the strategy initiatives at a grass roots level, identify specific projects, share information.</p> <p>4. Provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and help landowners become responsible land managers.</p> <p>a) Create a system to readily identify existing watercourses to potential land buyers, so that the property is purchased in full recognition of the associated expectations and responsibilities around good management of watercourses. This could be a simplified information sheet/pack that the potential buyer obtains when making the usual enquiries (either directly with the Shire or through the real estate agent) around land use zoning, planning approvals, building permits etc. The benefit to this would be that the new owner can make an informed decision as to whether a property with a watercourse really is the one for them due to the level of commitment required for ongoing rehabilitation, restoration, protection, maintenance as the case may be. It would be a shame for someone to buy a property with a watercourse only to find that they felt encumbered instead of motivated by it eg if it reduced the amount of land available to them for pursuits such as keeping stock, riding</p>	<p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>When contacted by Settlement Agents, the Shire makes potential purchasers aware on Zoning Certificates if a watercourse exists through the property.</p> <p>The Shire will take the other suggestions into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p>
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	<p>motorbikes and this resulted in mismanagement of the watercourse. This could be a system that local real estate agents become involved in and we could denote properties in advertising with a fun symbol to indicate the level of management complexity.</p> <p>b) Create a fun and engaging watercourse health/pulse reporting system whereby landowners can (annually?) volunteer to have an assessment performed by an expert from the Shire and receive a rating with recommendations for further improvements. There could be a friendly competitive aspect to this with results published by zone/suburb to increase engagement and motivation to participate.</p> <p>c) Create educational opportunities for our children and young people via the libraries and local schools. Once our kids understand, at their level, the fragility of watercourses they can be proactive stakeholders themselves and the adults in their lives will benefit from the added layer of accountability they bring! Education can include how to have fun in nature whilst being respectful of its needs (for example, playing in watercourses and wetlands is fun but we need to know the impact climbing on banks, riding our motorbikes through the mud, or keeping our horses in riparian areas has) and a cultural aspect with traditional noongar plant names, uses, benefits, relationships to seasons/wildlife/cultural practices.</p> <p>d) Focus on watercourses at pop up events for a period of time whilst the new strategy is embedded, and then rotated with other priorities throughout the year. A mobile riparian zone would be fantastic! Landowners can drop by to get an up close view of an optimally functioning riparian zone which can be explained by experts in attendance.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p>
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	<p>e) A one-stop online shop on the Shire's website for watercourse management including all the tools, resources and contacts needed for people to truly take ownership of their watercourse, undertake self-assessments, book an expert assessment and make improvements.</p> <p>5. Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors</p> <p>a) We would see this information in forums such as facebook, the Mundaring library noticeboard, the Chidlow Post Office noticeboard.</p> <p>b) Consider partnering with local vounteer fire brigades to push out information about bushfire mitigation works through their digital and other publication channels (for example, the Chidlow Volunteer Bushfire Brigade has a regular column in the Chidlow Chatter and a facebook page that we read.</p> <p>c) Install or improve signage where restoration works are occurring. This could be temporary signage.</p> <p>d) Consider approaching local schools to share information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restration efforts within their catchment zones.</p> <p>6. To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.</p> <p>a) Lead by example, by consistently applying the existing and proposed watercourse protections (for example, by not approving development and the keeping of stock that impacts on a watercourse corridor).</p>	<p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take the suggestions into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take the suggestions into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p>
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	<p>b) Re-educating the community on more acceptable lifestyle pursuits that enhance rather than put pressure on watercourse corridors. Communicating the big picture, providing visual connections for landowners between the watercourse corridor on their property and the system to which it belongs. Generating an understanding of regulations pertinent to their place and the activities they enjoy and more importantly, why those regulations exist.</p> <p>c) Create opportunities to constantly remind people of the existence and importance of watercourse corridors. For example, denote properties with watercourses with a special symbol on the rating notices so people can easily see their property is identified as having a valuable watercourse corridor. Use simple tools (like a QR code) to then link people to an annual focus (for example, in 2023 we are going to focus on planting XX square metres of watercourse corridors across the Shire).</p> <p>d) Consider small rate rebates for making measurable and sustainable enhancements (would require criteria to be developed).</p>	
<p>Submitter 8</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>There is a winter creek that runs through the length of our property from south to north. This is shown on the maps as a continuation from the adjoining properties to the south, however there is rarely any runoff from these properties as there is a dam on the adjacent property near our southern boundary that retains pretty much all the upstream water. Our section of the water course mostly only gathers water from our surrounding paddocks during the winter wet season. It takes a lot of rain for water to eventually flow into this creek especially after a hot dry summer. Depending on the amount of rainfall, the creek may not have a reasonable flow until September and sometimes not at all. During a good rainfall year, water will flow through to the connecting property on the northern</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

	<p>boundary. The rate of water flow together with the very gradual gradient means that there are no soil erosion issues.</p> <p>Also, the Vegetated Riparian Zone is well established and very stable other than the Flinders Ranges Wattles. We are continuing to pull out these weeds each season to help maintain control.</p> <p>We have several spring fed dams and soaks adjacent to the creek line along it's course but without any direct flow-in from the winter creek. On the aerial map, the blue line is shown running through the northern most dam, whereas it flows past the western side of the dam. In fact most of the blue line is not representative of the actual creek line.</p> <p>Unfortunately, over the last decade or so, the general water table has dropped significantly to the point that these dams and soaks only have water during the wetter months. These days, they are mostly dry during the summer. We would hope that considering the above, there is no need to make any restrictions or apply sanctions to our property.</p>	<p>Noted. Environmental weeds and pests have been observed in many locations across the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS. The Shire has made a number of on-line resources available such as weed identification and control, and for pest control.</p> <p>Noted. The watercourse location data on the Shire GIS is for information purposes only, and should not be relied upon as being very accurate. If any uncertainty exists regarding the location of a watercourse, particularly during the assessment of a Planning application, Shire Officers would visit the property to inspect the watercourse location.</p> <p>Noted. Key threats to watercourses and riparian zones include changing rainfall patterns due to climate change, land use and development pressures and increasing impervious surfaces causing erosion and sedimentation.</p> <p>Recommendations of the draft WcHS will inform statutory land use decisions under Local Planning Scheme No.4, future investigations, operational priorities and stormwater interventions. The outcomes of the draft WcHS have informed the development of Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy (particularly the wildlife corridor mapping) and Public Open Space strategies. Further, it is intended that the findings of the draft WcHS shape the future review of the Local Planning Strategy and the next iterations of the Shire's local planning scheme</p>
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	<p>As a further topic, in the Bushfire-Area-Access-Strategy document, there is List of possible entrapment roads without ready solutions, and one is Keenan Road Chidlow. We do have a relative straight forward solution. This would be to make a right of way access from the end of Keenan Road through our property to the adjacent Natural Protected Area and connect with existing local dirt bush roads and fire breaks. Hopefully there would be enough distance to allow for this in the middle at the end of Keenan Road and have a gateway either side. Obviously there would need to be fire break access gates in each dividing fence near our western boundary. As a condition to facilitate this we would want to have the option in the future to subdivide our property for residential use. At some point, there will hopefully be a demand for 5 acre lots in this area. This connection between Keenan Road and the Natural Protected Area would also provide benefit as a wildlife corridor.</p> <p>Frith Street is also listed as a possible entrapment road without a ready solution. A similar situation may be an option along our southern boundary with Frith Street extended through to the adjacent Natural Protected Area and connect with existing local dirt bush roads and fire breaks.</p>	<p>The submitter's property is zoned Rural Small Holdings RSH10. In accordance with LPS4 the minimum lot size requirement is 10 hectares. The subject property is already approximately 10 hectares in area, therefore, it has no subdivision potential.</p> <p>There are currently no plans to change the zoning of the subject property or the immediately surrounding area.</p>
<p>Submitter 9</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>My property includes Jane Brook flowing through, the water flow speed is quite fast during peak rainfall periods, is it possible to slow water flows through the John Forest National Park with revegetation, and in doing this could the water in the brook remain for longer periods during the drier months?</p>	<p>Bank and bed erosion have been observed across the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS. Predictions of increasing frequencies of extreme weather and rainfall conditions have raised concerns over increased velocities of stormwater runoff and subsequent increases in erosion.</p> <p>It is a recommended action of the draft WcHS to better control storm flow peak velocities across the Shire for improved erosion control. Also, it is a recommended best-practice for stormwater management for various catchment situations, for the Shire to undertake a Stormwater Intervention Study.</p>

	<p>Provide advice and if possible funding to landowners to remove and spray weeds then replant with native vegetation.</p> <p>Offer assistance to private landowners who have the natural watercourses and in addition small lakes or springs and man made dams to improve water retention in summer months, through relining of dams with clay etc and professional scientific or traditional owners advice with regards to lakes and springs, improvement to the native / natural habitat and allowing more native fauna to thrive / breed.</p> <p>Some landowners seem not to care about weeds along the watercourses or do not know the difference between weeds and native plants and the benefits to the land if the areas are revitalised. An education program and offers of assistance could eradicate weeds and improve natural habitat..</p> <p>Enforce penalties on littering into the watercourses. areas with evidence of dumping and littering could be monitored with CCTV and penalise offenders.</p> <p>Declare waterways special environment zones or native fauna corridors that need protection.</p> <p>Increase the property development restrictions along watercourses, limit the amount of properties in subdivisions that are adjacent to watercourses.</p>	<p>Noted. The Shire has made a number of on-line resources available such as weed identification and control, and for pest control.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. The Shire has made a number of on-line resources available such as weed identification and control, and for pest control.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted. However, the current State planning legislation does not allow for such a zoning to exist.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Submitter 10</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>We agree that there needs to be an overall strategy for managing watercourses within the shire and look forward to working with the shire to maintain the creekline and to return it to a natural state where possible. We have a few questions and points to raise regarding the strategy:</p>	

	<p>1. How will the strategy impact our property? The map in Figure 11 is not clear enough to see where our property lies and what we will be required to do.</p>	<p>1. A range of water sensitive urban design best management practices at various scales targeted to Mundaring’s topography and hydrological processes are outlined under figures 7 to 11 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Watercourse management measures for the Swanview area are shown in Figure 11, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>“Better control of storm flow peak-velocities for improved erosion control.</i> b) <i>Greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas.</i> c) <i>Better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities.</i> d) <i>Provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and help landowners become responsible land managers.</i> e) <i>Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors.</i> f) <i>To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.”</i>
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	<p>2. How will the shire support re-vegetation? We have previously obtained plants through the TCUP program with a significant number of these planted along our stretch of creekline. Now this program has been discontinued we have been forced to purchase plants which has reduced then amount of planting we have been able to do due to the cost.</p> <p>3. Our neighbours at 33 Marloo Rd have a dam and drain that was installed by a previous owner, does the shire expect this to be removed and returned to a natural state and will there be assistance with this work?</p> <p>4. At 31 Marloo Rd the owner has recently cleared and levelled a large section of the creekline. It appears they are planning to build a shed on the creek and there are presently multiple wrecked cars parked on/in the creekline. Will the shire allow development like this on the creek or will the owner be required to rectify this? We are concerned as to the impact of this development on the creek downstream. When it rains this has the potential to undo all the effort we have put in over the last 17 years in re-vegetating the creekline through our property.</p>	<p>2. The following actions are listed under 7.2.5 of the draft WcHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“Revegetate gaps in ‘riparian zones ‘to reduce habitat fragmentations: SoM and Proponent.</i> • <i>Replant sedges and rushes along gently sloping road drains to reduce erosion: SoM and Proponent.”</i> <p>It is too early to be able to advise what role landowners will have in this.</p> <p>3. If the existing dam has the necessary Shire approvals, and complies with them, then currently there is no expectation for it to be removed.</p> <p>4. This matter has been passed onto the Shire’s Compliance Officer for investigation.</p> <p>All development proposed on properties where a watercourse exists is required to comply with the requirements of LPS4.</p>
<p>Submitter 11</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>The document is well-considered and appears to be thorough and a very good start to management of the Shire’s water courses. Implementation will surely result in considerable improvements across the Shire and potentially beyond. I have a couple of general queries and potential gap for consideration:</p>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mapping appears to focus on stream order of level 3 and above. However, there are many level 1 and 2 streams that occur and require management in reserves and private land, particularly, that are subject to a multitude of risks, and that impact downstream watercourses. How will these areas be identified, managed and protected? They have important roles to play and often receive significant impacts, and are also important from a biodiversity management perspective. 2. Additionally, how will the actions arising from the Watercourse Hierarchy be resourced and implemented. A dedicated resource should be available to implement this important work. 3. Broader guidance, enforcement and compliance monitoring for activities on private land, developments and subdivisions are needed to ensure implementation. 4. Adequate resourcing of roles to implement this strategy is critical. 5. This strategy should be referenced and linked thoroughly in the Local Biodiversity Strategy and vice versa. A clear pathway for how these strategies sit in the overall Shire strategy could be provided. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order. The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire. Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4. 2. It is not currently known how the actions under section 7 of the draft WcHS will be resourced. 3. Noted. 4. Noted. 5. Noted. The draft WcHS and draft LBS will inform the Shire's Local Planning Strategy when the major review of LPS4 is undertaken.
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Submitter 12

Comments on the draft WcHS

I'm not good with words.

Five images of one water body and two waterways within the Shire are attached. They are for Lake Leschenaultia itself, Lake Leschenaultia's spillway, and Naanya Creek. The images tell their stories. Please use as you see fit. I'd be happy to supply any one of the images which make up the triptychs.



Noted.





<p>Submitter 13</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>May I suggest to develop strict guidelines so that any water catchment area becomes protected from both developments, grazing and clearing, that they become a focus of needed revegetated areas, and that they retain their character of water catchment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the general environmental crisis, developments ought to be a fair distance from any creek, at least 100 m for individual housing, and 200 for housing developments. • Swamps and creeks give opportunity for underground water and dams to replenish, therefore it is extremely important to keep such areas safe and healthy. • Creek lines and swamp areas must be revegetated for the simple outcome to provide cooler temperatures and to slow down evaporation. • rocks and other heavy materials such as logs must be left or brought to creek beds so as to slow water flow and therefore prevent the deepening of creek beds and damage caused to trees both in private and public areas.. • Creeks and swamps or water catchment land must be kept clear of weeds as much as possible, and weeding needs to occur from upstream down. 	<p>The draft WcHS defines the key issues and threats facing the management of watercourses in the Shire and recommends corresponding strategic, planning based and operational actions.</p> <p>Recommendations made under the draft WcHS will inform statutory land use decisions under Local Planning Scheme No.4, future investigations, operational priorities and stormwater interventions.</p> <p>The draft WcHS has in essence been distilled to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better control of storm flow peak-velocities across the shire for improved erosion control. • Greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas. • To better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities. • To provide information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and educate people living near to and visiting the shire’s watercourses. • Improve sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors. • To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements so as to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems.
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<p>Submitter 14</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>When first arriving in the Perth Hills after living in the more urban Perth metro area, I took part in a Bush Skills for the Hills course about creekline restoration. It was an interesting and informative workshop.</p> <p>One of the important strategies would be the provision of diverse workshops and education for residents, ratepayers and businesses about watercourses, management of riparian areas, regeneration, wildlife corridors, etc. with practical examples and experience. Teaching land owners how to mitigate runoff and erosion.</p> <p>One of the concerns as a land owner would be other property owners damming watercourses further up from our property.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take the suggestions into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted. In accordance with LPS4, in determining a Planning application for a dam, the Shire has regard for the following principles, amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>“there is a very strong presumption against the construction of dams within a watercourse;</i> b) <i>natural stream flow, under base flow (non-rain) conditions, should be maintained within the watercourse, in order to protect water quality, downstream ecosystems and the rights of downstream users;</i> c) <i>the cumulative impact of dams along a watercourse must be considered.”</i>
<p>Submitter 15</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>Overall, the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy is a major step forward for the Shire, hopefully leaning towards better catchment management, and recognising the benefits of having healthy waterways and living streams which form wildlife corridors throughout the landscape.</p> <p>However, there seems to be little protection for 1st and 2nd order streams which can be major sources of sediment and nutrient</p>	<p>For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as ≥3rd order.</p>

<p>enrichment. The Shire's proposed mapping, only covers 3rd order streams. That probably means that tributaries of Jane Brook will not be mapped as 3rd order streams, and therefore the riparian zones will not be protected by the setbacks as proposed.</p> <p>The scale of mapping is vitally important, to define the order of streams. For example, if detailed mapping is being used, then Bugle Tree Creek would probably be classified as a 3rd order stream, downstream from Bugle Tree Gully Park. If less detailed mapping is being used, then Bugle Tree Creek would be classified as a 2nd order stream, and afforded no protection as all.</p> <p>The feeder tributaries need to be classified as 1st order streams, not treated as drains or disregarded entirely. It is vitally important to protect the lower order streams, because it is on these that much damage occurs and they need setbacks and fringing vegetation to improve water quality, trap sediments and leaf litter. As it states in the strategy 4.3 Nutrient Transfer: Recent research has shown that low order streams were found to have the highest nutrient and sediment concentration ...therefore represent the best opportunity to attenuate nutrients and sediments.</p> <p>If only 3rd order streams are to be mapped and given protection with setbacks, then what is being proposed for the 1st and 2nd order streams which are crucially important? How are the lower order tributaries and streams to be protected?</p> <p>The following are comments on some of the issues raised in the Strategy, plus an attachment on the upper reaches (1st and 2nd order streams) of Bugle Tree Creek in Mundaring.</p> <p>Executive Summary Strategic issues Covers a lot of issues that would improve many aspects of catchment management, as long as these can be successfully implemented.</p>	<p>The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., ≥3rd order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.</p> <p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4.</p>
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	<p>1.Control of storm flow velocities: impact of the increase in quantity and velocity of water, makes it impossible to plant along creeklines (including some lower order streams). Better control of peak flows is needed to lessen impacts downstream and to permit revegetation of the waterways.</p> <p>2. ecological function: water sensitive design is needed; as stated in 1. It is almost impossible to plant along waterways due to the increase in quantity and velocity of water in storm events which are becoming more intense due to climate change.</p> <p>3.better coordinate: Eastern Region Landcare (ERL) formerly the Eastern Region Catchment Management Program, was able to fill this requirement. Increased support and coordination with ERL, to support the role it plays between local governments across the eastern region, plus government departments and Perth NRM, would help to fulfil this requirement. ERL also supports local communities with site visits to private properties, assistance with grant funding applications and implementation, and by supporting the catchment groups who in turn help to support the Friends Groups. Since the councils stopped supporting ERL, there has been a marked reduction in communication via the Greenpage newsletter, workshops and programs such as Bush Skills for Kids.</p> <p>4.provide information: this is an excellent initiative, but how would this be implemented?</p> <p>5.improve sharing: there has been a problem with communication with Friends and catchment Groups with bushfire mitigation, as well as concern about the methods used. Ecological restoration efforts along corridors eg the Heritage Trail can be controversial with the removal of mature exotic trees. Removal of some pioneering native species such as <i>Banksia sessilis</i> and <i>Grevillea glabrata</i> which provide food and habitat for birds and small native animals is also an issue. This should be considered in the Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>1. Noted.</p> <p>2. Noted.</p> <p>3. Noted.</p> <p>4. Please refer to the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>5. Noted.</p>
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<p>6.to facilitate and support: the problem will be implementing this proposal. Workshops are highly effective in demonstrating techniques and discussing ways to improve landcare, but attendance at these events are usually restricted to those already involved and committed. Targeting landholders along watercourses would be more effective, and assisting landholders to access grant funding and advice where possible. The state of a watercourse is the result of what is happening in the catchment, and with problems with increase runoff from more intense storms, this leads to a major issue in attempting to revegetate watercourses. Unless there is a wide setback from watercourses, regardless of stream order, then there are issues with fire mitigation, and increased fire risk from planting many of the native species, eg Myrtaceae which have a high oil content in the leaves.</p> <p>Introduction 2.1 Context</p> <p>Water quantity and velocity management are more significant than water quality (nutrient) management</p> <p>The shift to a drying climate has led to an increase in the amount of water dumped from storms, often in a short time. I live on Bugle Tree Creek, and after a storm, usually c 20 minutes later, the roar of the stormwater rushing down the creek can be heard. It is not just slope determining flow velocities, it is also an increase in flash flooding from severe rainfall events, with the water being shed off an increasingly impervious catchment i.e. concreted paths, roads, carparks, etc. and reduction in vegetation cover. The velocity of the water makes attempts at revegetation along the creeks almost impossible. I know, because I've tried. The photograph on the cover of the strategy, taken, I think, of Jane Brook in Brookside Park, Parkerville, shows the downcutting from the velocity of the water, and the undercutting of the banks. This is also evident in the photographs in the strategy of Bugle Tree Creek in Bugle Tree Gully Park, Mundaring (Plates 1 and 2). The proposed "rationalisation" of reserves as outlined in the Biodiversity Strategy, will only add to the problem as many of these reserves would be sold and used for</p>	<p>6. Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>housing or other landuse that will increase the percentage of impervious surfaces in the Shire.</p> <p>2.2 Shire Profile ...the residence time of water within most catchments has been considerably reduced, impeding the natural assimilative processes of riparian corridors. Implementing water sensitive design, increasing buffer zones and having wide setbacks for riparian zones, coupled with increased efforts at revegetation, will make the riparian zones more effective as filters, wildlife corridors as well as increase visual appeal.</p> <p>...a forensic interrogation of the system is now required to determine what has and hasn't worked... The Catchment and Friends Groups have a good idea of what has worked and what hasn't, but new directions need to be developed due to social and cultural changes in the community, eg. time poor people with less time for volunteer work or cannot see the value of it. Succession planning is an issue for groups, so that the work done so far can be continued. There are also issues with projects and unforeseen circumstances. Jane brook Catchment Group supports Friends Groups in their activities and provides a forum to share information and experiences.</p> <p>2.3 Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy approach To mitigate against changes....maintained as close as practicable to their original state This would need wide buffer zones and setbacks, and water sensitive design to control peak flows.</p> <p>The catchment groups offer a significant vehicle...the catchment groups used to have a lot of support from the EMRC and the three local governments of Swan, Mundaring and Kalamunda, through the ERCMP now Eastern Region Landcare (ERL) but this support has mostly been withdrawn. Funding is still provided by DBCA but is not supplemented by Kalamunda or Mundaring, although Swan seems to be realising the value of ERL and is</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>reinvesting in the program. A lot of what is being suggested, was what ERL was doing in the past before financial and other support was withdrawn.</p> <p>This connects to: Appendix 2: Smart regulations Higher levels of government are actively seeking to devolve responsibility/delegate many aspects of land management to local government, community groups and individuals. .. There is an increasing amount expected of the individuals in Friends and Catchment Groups, yet less support is being provided. The rationalisation of reserves, ie the sell off, is not the answer as this will increase impervious surfaces and reduce natural areas in the Shire. How can developer contributions assist?</p> <p>Generic Issues 1.Environmental weeds and pests Friends and Catchment Groups spend a lot of time, money and hard work trying to control weeds. They are a major problem in the Shire. It should also be noted, that funding was obtained through a landcare grant for feral bee control in Black Cockatoo Reserves and Bugle Tree Gully Park. This was essential as the feral bees were taking over nesting hollows in reserves. Generally, Friends and Catchment Groups control flora not fauna. There is an issue with declining insect populations, many of which are beneficial, through over use of insecticide sprays and other devices which do not discriminate which insects are killed. The decline in butterfly populations, beetles and other native insects is something that needs to be considered in mosquito and other insect control measures.</p> <p>2.Bank and bed erosion The basic problem here is lack of water sensitive design that can cope with increased flash flooding both water quantity and velocity are increasing, and are detrimental not only to infrastructure but to the waterways and riparian zones.</p>	<p>In accordance with State Planning Policy 3.6 – Infrastructure Contributions, contributions required as a condition of proposed subdivision or development could be used on foreshore management and upgrades.</p> <p>1. Noted. Environmental weeds and pests have been observed in many locations across the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>2. Bank and bed erosion have been observed across the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS. Predictions of increasing frequencies of extreme weather and rainfall conditions have raised concerns over increased velocities of</p>
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	<p>5. Falling rates of community involvement It is difficult with the Catchment Groups to get new members, and to keep those who are members involved in the work of the group. This is partly because it is work. As an example, commenting on this strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy has taken many hours over several sessions, and at this point it is not finished. Running a group takes time, effort and much diplomacy on occasions, and nowadays many people do not wish to commit. Landcare grant applications are complex, with grant acquittals, progress reports, plus doing the hands on work of planting and follow up weeding. It's not over when the landcare money runs out and the grant is acquitted, as there is long term ongoing maintenance.</p> <p>6. Community engagement with riparian areas With the COVID epidemic and lockdowns, there was an increase in interactions with riparian areas by many people, so much so it was causing problems in some areas, notable Hovea Falls. The</p>	<p>stormwater runoff and subsequent increases in erosion.</p> <p>It is already a requirement under LPS4, as outlined in the draft WcHS, that development adjacent to watercourses shall incorporate appropriate measures to minimum erosion.</p> <p>It is a recommended action of the draft WcHS to better control storm flow peak velocities across the Shire for improved erosion control. Also, it is a recommended best-practice for stormwater management for various catchment situations, for the Shire to undertake a Stormwater Intervention Study.</p> <p>In applying the above, it is recommended that the Shire implements the strategies and actions stipulated under section 7.2 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>5. Noted.</p> <p>6. Noted.</p>
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	<p>community engagement with riparian areas is still there, as people are attracted to watercourses, but there are fewer people willing to become involved in helping to look after and improve reserves and other natural areas by joining a Friends or Catchment Group, or both.</p> <p>7.Climate uncertainty...drying of riparian areas...extreme weather..erosion Less rainfall and more extreme weather events impact on revegetation, and even the species that should be planted. An increase in erosion not only undercuts the banks and leads to slumping and loss of creekline vegetation, in particular established trees, but also smothers the creek bed downstream. Sedimentation is a significant factor in degradation of creeks, and it comes not just from erosion, but from building sites eg Bugle Tree Gully Park in Mundaring downstream from the over 55's development on Gill St where the creek has been filled with sand, and smothered the creek bed. There is little done about sedimentation from building sites, yet this can be a significant factor in creekline degradation. This relates to 5.3.4 Bushfire Risk Management, where sedimentation from runoff after bushfires and controlled burns is also a detrimental factor if reserves are too narrow.</p> <p>8.Gaps in integration and inconsistency of agency oversight It is difficult to have any enforcement of regulations regarding watercourses. The lower order streams, eg Bugle Tree Creek in Mundaring, and other tributaries, are seen as drains, and are viewed by some as rubbish disposal sites, ideal places to blow leaves off the driveway, as well as more serious offences such as clearing remnant native vegetation from the riparian zone. It is not clear how or to whom to report such transgressions, and many people think this is acceptable behaviour.</p> <p>3.5 How wide should riparian corridors be? The corridor widths for NSW include 1st and 2nd order streams, with 20m plus channel width (1st order) and 40 m plus channel width (2nd order). The corridors are not confined to 3rd order and higher</p>	<p>7. Noted.</p> <p>8. If any breach under LPS4 occurs (e.g. unauthorised work within close proximity to a watercourse) the Shire does have the ability to take compliance action under the Planning and Development Act.</p> <p>3.5 <i>Operational policy 4.3 is the State government policy on waterway foreshores (DoW 2012). This is described in more detail in Section 5 of the draft WchS. The recommended method for determining</i></p>
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	<p>streams. Wide riparian corridors are needed if they are to be effective in trapping sediment and nutrients, as well as providing shelter, habitat and food for wildlife. Riparian areas will become increasingly important in a drying climate as refuges for plants and animals, and also with development and increasing urbanisation.</p> <p>3.6 Impacts on Mundaring’s Watercourses The impacts on watercourses and riparian areas show the need to ban clearing riparian vegetation regardless of stream hierarchy, in the Shire. This also demonstrates the need for wide buffer and riparian zones to protect the watercourses and to provide habitat and wildlife corridors. Control of weeds and feral animals is also an issue that needs addressing.</p> <p>3.7 WA preferred riparian buffers Provide greater flexibility: some of the uses mentioned, such as roads, would obliterate any vegetation and have negative impacts such as increased runoff from impervious surfaces, as well as pollutants such as oil from motor vehicles. There are other negative impacts from roads next to watercourses such as birds, ducklings during breeding season... Enable works and activities to be offset...what does this mean? Offsets in the sense of land being an offset, or the activity is offset from the watercourse? Remove the need for vegetated buffers....the maximum amount of buffer and riparian zone is needed if this is to have any positive impact.</p>	<p>foreshore widths in WA is based on site-specific biophysical criteria (WRC 2001a). The biophysical criteria include: vegetation, hydrology, soil type, erosion risk, geology, topography, function, habitat, climate change impacts, heritage and the risks from the proposed adjacent land use. The criteria are a means of assessing the features, functions, values of and risks to the waterway.</p> <p>3.6 Noted.</p> <p>3.7 The matters mentioned are examples of how a watercourse hierarchy approach may assist when considering Planning proposal. A watercourse hierarchy approach that considers size, flow volumes and position in the catchment helps fine-tune the application of regulations. Sometimes the appropriate width may be much greater than the general baseline. For example, for a high-value pristine or near-pristine river with threatened species, where logging is proposed nearby, an appropriate foreshore/buffer width might be 100 m. For a small degraded creek in a paddock, 15-20 m revegetated foreshore either side may be adequate.</p>
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	<p>4.3 Nutrient transport...recent research has shown that low order streams were found to have the highest nutrient ad sediment concentration ...therefore represent the best opportunity to attenuate nutrients and sediments. However, 6.2.3 is - map all waterways above order 3 and assign a hierarchy. Does this mean that the lower order streams (1st and 2nd) which are known to be important contributors to nutrients and sediment, are going to be overlooked in the Strategy and afforded no protection?</p> <p>4.4 Are riparian buffers effective... 4.5 Implications and application to SOM Riparian buffers and associated grass filter strips....the species of grass that would be used is important, as many of the weeds in riparian zones and wetlands are weeds. Suitable native grasses would include Weeping Grass (<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>), Matgrass (<i>Hemarthria uncinata</i>), Marine Couch (<i>Sporobolus virginicus</i>), Clustered Lovegrass (<i>Eragrostis elongata</i>) and Wallaby Grass (<i>Rytidosperma</i> spp.)</p> <p>5.3.4 bushfire risk management Strategies for revegetation with local native species that do not pose a bushfire risk in residential and urban areas, need to be developed. Sedimentation post-fire has negative impact on waterways, with wide setbacks along waterways and riparian zones needed.</p> <p>5.5.1 clause 5.7.5 b) in the absence of a specific setback, 20 m in the residential zone, 30 m in all other zones. Are these setbacks being adhered to now in developments, or are they being ignored? There needs to be a more standard and rigorous approach to enforcing setbacks for watercourses, otherwise what is the point in having them?</p> <p>Within that setback...The points listed do not include some of the issues raised for multi used corridors (see 3.7) eg roads, cycleways</p>	<p>4.3 Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4.</p> <p>4.4 Noted.</p> <p>5.3.4 Noted.</p> <p>5.5.1 These setbacks are already stipulated under LPS4. The current Planning legislation does give applicants the ability to apply for the setbacks to potentially be varied. Currently there is little guidance under the local Planning legislation as to what matters are to be taken into consideration when such variations are proposed. it is recommended that the Shire implements the action stipulated under section 7.2.2 of the draft WcHS when LPS4 is reviewed.</p>
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	<p>etc which are in conflict with the points made here eg native vegetation to be retained.</p> <p>5.5.8 clause 5.8.2 Dam construction These need to be promoted as wildlife refuges; there is a project with Perth NRM and Murdoch University at the moment, looking at dams as habitat.</p> <p>6. Moving Forward 6.2.3 intended approach to management</p> <p>Map all waterways above stream order 3 and assign a hierarchy: Given that the technology exists to map lower order tributaries, ie orders 1 and 2, this needs to be included in the mapping as these tributaries contribute to the nutrient, sediment and leaf litter load, and if not given protection will only become more degraded, and be treated as drains. It needs a more holistic approach to catchment management, than ignoring the tributaries that have already been scientifically shown to have the highest nutrient and sediment concentrations (see 4.3 nutrient transfer).</p> <p>Stormwater detention can be used to provide wildlife habitat and be part of the connecting corridors, and hence provide other environmental benefits than controlling peak flows and alleviating flash flooding.</p> <p>Maintaining stream biodiversity, waterway health and habitat values should be a major achievement to be aimed for in management of waterways in the Shire.</p>	<p>5.5.8 Noted.</p> <p>For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order.</p> <p>The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.</p> <p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>Improve stream flow and ecological environments – often improving stream flow by removing rocks, logs, and deepening channels - is not going to improve the ecological environment, but is the reverse. Obstructions in the waterways provide habitat and by slowing stream flow, contribute to a healthier waterway, with less erosion. Sediment can be a problem in this situation, so needs to be controlled upstream.</p> <p>Identify and implement setbacks to all watercourses – our concern is by not mapping order 1 and 2 streams, that they will not be included and given protection through setbacks. Implementing setbacks to all watercourses, means all watercourses, and looking at the situation from a whole catchment perspective.</p> <p>6.2.4 key issues and threats Other key issues and threats are the way drainage is designed, so that more water is dumped into waterways after rainfall, and with increasingly intense rainfall events this has a major impact. Development is not only resulting in a loss of biodiversity from clearing, but also the increase in impervious surfaces from rooves, driveways, roads, paths and the desire to get the water out of the immediate vicinity as soon as possible. Water does not have the time to infiltrate. Planning is an issue, if little to no enforcement becomes the norm, and the watercourse hierarchy strategy and objectives and the generic principles cannot be implemented.</p> <p>6.3 Slopes are the dominant factor driving steam flow velocities and hence erosion potential Slope is an important factor in stream flow velocity, but the intense rainfall events falling on the increasing areas of impervious surfaces from development, are a major factor in the increase in quantity and velocity of water. This is degrading the watercourses, changing the stream profile, stripping out vegetation and soil, causing undercutting of mature trees, and making it impossible to plant along the waterway. It also result in sedimentation downstream with negative consequences.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>7.2.1 Water quality Only Phosphorus is dealt with here, yet most fertilisers have a high proportion of Nitrogen, also a problem. It is not just artificial fertilisers that are a problem; eg. chicken manure spread on orchards, particularly as many orchards are on the lower valley slopes near the creek, is also highly polluting. Stocking rates need to be controlled as the manure is a major pollutant, as well as trampling leading to soil compaction. Access to waterways needs to be controlled from stock, and in this situation waterways should be fenced leaving an appropriate setback and buffer zone.</p> <p>7.2.4 Stormwater management systems should apply endemic vegetation</p> <p>7.2.5 Waterway corridor vegetation It has been my experience that any endemic vegetation in drainage lines is removed by the Shire. Better catchment management aims to have the stormwater retained on site and infiltrate; this is counter to the Shire's and many residents desire to have the water transported off site as quickly as possible. Yes, there are issues of flooding that need to be considered, but water sensitive design needs to be implemented.</p> <p>7.2.6 Information dissemination Starting an electronic platform to obtain feedback from the community would be a way of collecting information on waterways and the fauna and flora. Providing information that is readily available to the community on the importance of riparian vegetation and the need to retain or replant, would also be of value. These contacts with the community could help to get more involvement with friends and catchment groups, and help private landholders to become more aware and informed.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p>
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1. The main stream of Bugle Tree Creek starts in Mundaring Cemetery. There are many small tributaries (level 1 streams) that merge to form the main creekline. They flow mostly through bare paddocks with no fringing vegetation as can be seen downstream of the cemetery.



2. Drainage lines have been dug around the cemetery to divert the natural line of the creek. Without the fringing vegetation of shrubs, rushes and sedges, the leaf litter and sediment (plus nutrients) wash directly into the watercourse after rain.



3. Downstream adjacent to Darkan St, an unmade road reserve off Walker St, a dam is across the main watercourse. The white pipe is the only outlet. The incoming creek bed is on the opposite side of the dam.



4. The Darkan St sediment trap. Drains take water from Great Eastern Highway. This is the main watercourse of Bugle Tree Creek, opposite the dam.



5. At Darkan St weeds predominate along tributaries leading into where the main watercourse should be.



6. Further downstream at Bugle Tree Gully Park, water runoff from development upstream, has caused rapid erosion, and the banks are undercut. The stream channel has widened and deepened. It is impossible to plant due to the quantity and velocity of the water after storms. Most of the grass is the native Weeping Grass (*Microlaena stipoides*) holding the remains of the bank together.



	<p>7. In Bugle Tree Gully Park revegetation and planting occurs - here with a grant from AGIG and plants from the Shire's Seedlings for Landcare Program in June 2022- but in areas not on the main watercourse. Trees in the background were planted by volunteers over 25 years ago. The work continues...</p>	
<p>Submitter 16</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>Thank you for the document and the opportunity to comment. I think it is a good document and I have learned a lot. It has vital content as water is life.</p> <p>My perspectives stem from being a local landowner with a creek running through. I have been a landcare volunteer locally for 20 years, working alone and with a group, and much of our efforts relate to the local watercourses. It has been a constant learning curve, supplemented by formal education in horticulture and landcare. a number of suggestions are scattered through the next section of somewhat disjointed thoughts related to the document. Please bear with me.</p> <p>Somewhere build in flexibility for the always improving understandings in landcare. Our own narrow section of creekline shows evidence of the old 'river straightening' with loss of depth and meander. Old tyres were used to build up false banks. Annually, as we are second from a major stormwater discharge and downstream from a massive willow tree, we observe the enormous annual build up of sediment, mostly organic matter, and the extremes of no water rapidly change to torrents from the discharge pipes.</p> <p>We have managed to improve our section of creek, now vegetated with diverse local sedges, rushes, grasses, herbs, small and large shrubs and trees. It is the work of years and repeated improvements. Many fauna are home here as evidenced by the many active burrows in the banks, the sounds and the reduced</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p>

<p>algal bloom. The banks are stable and it is managed enough not to be a fire hazard. Each year a tyre or two comes out and we have to dig out the masses of rubbish including undesirable organic matter (pine cones, willow detritus, willow roots, to restore some depth. my suggestion is practical help, even permission, for advice/ assistance for restoration of flows, including removal of historical amendments. A booklet may help explaining the process year by year of improving a degraded waterway. I can't find a reference site available in the shire and would be pleased to know of one.</p> <p>Our property is the only one with a rehabilitated creekline in the vicinity. That is the reality, that few people do look after watercourses on private properties, and I think much stems from fear of doing harm, where that fear is paralysing. The fear relates to ignorance as there is no decent general knowledge about looking after a local waterway. I have experimented with many different sedges, rushes, riparian local grasses and learnt what helps, but know that it is not as straightforward as the document suggests.</p> <p>In the buffers section of the document, I think that the broad term 'grasses' to prevent sediment run-off is not good enough. Grasses such as kikuyu will choke a waterway, alter its path, and smother fauna habitat in a waterway. Local sedges and rushes allow flow while stabilising edges. The commonly available species are not a good example either. They are easy and cheap to propagate and distribute but fail at the user end, with high browning-off effects and difficult to manage amongst weeds which are everywhere. They differ from patches of local waterway vegetation I have seen. So yes, the document needs to allow for employment of staff with good botanical and waterway ecology knowledge - people prepared to do the dirty work. And more education regarding the suite of riparian vegetation options, including grasses, and how they relate to bank composition (low, medium, upper and very wet, wet and dry for simplicity). suggestions include support of a landcare for locals nursery, staffing levels, ongoing learning opportunities and reference sites.</p>	<p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>As stated under the draft WcHS, environmental weeds and pests have been observed in many locations across the Shire. These include a wide range of introduced grasses. The Shire will take into consideration the various vegetation options when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p>
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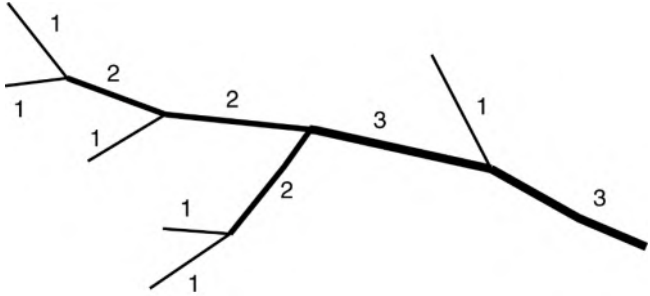
	<p>My overall sense of the document is that it is well written and says all the right things but does not necessarily bridge the gap between theory and reality. I.e. on - ground systems of maintenance and improvement. Waterways are the hubs of diversity, with local and feral organisms. Staff, volunteers and homeowners need to be brave and prepared for sweat and dirt as waterways need involvement of humans in their care.</p> <p>Waterways by their nature require work to be done when water is not flowing, with an emphasis on summer and that is hard work in Perth's heat. Management can help here, with structured rosters allowing for the challenges facing staff and understanding improvements take time. A suggestion for support of volunteers is to provide adequate means of removal of rubbish - weeds and miscellaneous unhelpful detritus. That is, quality garden bags, collection points, wheeled devices for access to hard to reach places.</p> <p>The concept of harnessing rainwater to groundwater needs to be highlighted in the document and in practice through education, planning dept etc.</p> <p>To enable community and staff to understand what custodianship means would require some good examples, for example quality reference sites. I work along the Nyaania creek and know no single excellent example of what 'original state' would look like. Hence, I would suggest the Shire finds and maintains quality reference wetland sites.</p> <p>Shire staff at present are not conversant with the suite of true local wetland plants. E.g. annual tiny sedges. They too need reference sites. I have been restoring the little wetland remnant alongside the toilet block in Morgan John Morgan Reserve Glen Forrest. The site was originally the creek and adjacent claypan. The remnant wetland vegetation is diverse and not anything like pre-conceived ideas. Removal of weeds has allowed natural regeneration of</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. It is a recommended action under the draft WcHS for the Shire to create an awareness and publicity campaign about implications of ecological corridor vandalism and benefits of rubbish removal.</p> <p>Noted. The Shire will take into consideration the various vegetation options when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>numerous local species, giving a picture of what 'original ' might look like. Reference sites may include natural and unnatural watercourses, associated damplands, claypans, perched wetlands e.g. rocky outcrop, summer ponds. According to WA museum native freshwater fish information, prior to settlement chains of ponds had enough depth and fringing vegetation that water would remain throughout the year, allowing native freshwater fish to oversummer in the ponds, back as far as York. At present the only places I know that hold some water through summer are unnatural e.g. diversion ponds for the old Railway line, old wells, quarries, Lake Lechenaultia. They are disconnected. Somewhere in the document needs to be an allowance for excess sediment to be removed, in a planned fashion, to allow for connected waterways and wetlands.</p> <p>Weed control along waterways is currently in a difficult phase, since the over-correction associated with misunderstood herbicide. Each year is another set of weed seedbank additions, with weeds posing greater risk than any possible perceived threat from correctly applied herbicide. My suggestion is for a Shire team (one or more people) who specialise in on-ground waterway management and weed control, small to tall. Shire management needs to be supportive and set up a way of dealing with public misconceptions, fears and complaints rather than expecting the technical staff to deal with the public, as well as on-ground work. There's a lot of waterway that never gets any attention. My point is to recognise the major hurdles and not avoid them.</p> <p>The next suggestion is to identify and care for the watercourses without Friends groups, and put them on regular calendars of work (independent of volunteers). Rehabilitation/ restoration does require eradication of feral animals and plants. In contrast the document refers only to 'declared plants'. That might include bramble but would exclude watsonias , most weed grasses e.g paspalum, Ipomoea, Giant reed, Gladiolus undulatus, weed trees to name a few. Corymbia maculata are severe weeds of waterways, as are many weedy wattles, climbers like Pandorea</p>	<p>Noted. Environmental weeds and pests have been observed in many locations across the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS. The Shire has made a number of on-line resources available such as weed identification and control, and for pest control.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>which smother everything, garden escape hybrid Callistemons with their high fire risk. Hence I suggest a bit more information on weeds of waterways and systematic management, which automatically restores biodiversity and reduces fire risk. The document suggests the Shire manages ferals however, as people live along watercourses, they don't, due to fear of complaints. Rabbits, foxes, off-lead dogs, cats, kookaburras and introduced honeybees are all major local pests, but nothing gets done -"too close to people and their dogs".</p> <p>A point to stress is the need for awareness of the harm of deciduous trees to waterways and wetlands, and the Shire could adapt its street-tree and amenity tree policies. The leaves fall as our rains begin. The leaves clog drains, cause algal blooms, and surface disease e.g. collar rot, and harbour slugs and snails, all of which impact negatively on watercourses. Plane tree leaves do not decompose easily, acting as an impermeable ground surface, smothering soil and other organisms, and eliminating oxygen from soil. These basic concepts need to be better known to enable regular people to care for sections of waterway and make it easier to make landcare decisions. Hence my suggestion is more information - handouts or online pamphlets on a variety of subjects.</p> <p>Volunteers too need information. I was privileged to be able to access decent education but most people don't. Fear of fire and fear of herbicide make educational events somewhat worthless and confusing for people trying to get reliable information.</p> <p>p21 5.4.1. Values 4. as above, perhaps 'especially' rather than 'specifically', or some may disregard other important weeds of waterways</p> <p>p23 5.5.5 clause 5.7.12 the sentence is not clear, and why are there always exceptions to prevention of clearing of native vegetation?</p> <p>p 24 5.5.9 clause 6.6 "...in g/doing so..."</p>	<p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Part 5.5 is with regard to the Shire's LPS4. 5.5.5 of the draft WcHS makes specific reference to the existing LPS4 clause regarding vegetation protection.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p>
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	<p>p24 5.5.9.1 commentary - sounds good but what a mouthful. Perhaps simplify the language, use some commas, and explain whether it is water detention or retention that is implied and what is the difference?</p> <p>p26 6.1 context e) identit/fy</p> <p>p26 6.2.2 please review the grammar to allow understanding of the complex sentence.</p> <p>p33 7.2.2 waterway setbacks and buffers. It may be too easy for developers to obtain reduction of setbacks, and to do harm to waterways using heavy machinery. perhaps this section could include a provision that stipulates that heavy machinery (bulldozers) may not be used on the banks of waterways even for the purpose of removing weeds. Example 1 Tillbrook St where a bulldozer crushed the banks over a long section of very stable waterway, albeit lined with weeds. It drove over it, again and again, crushing it, destroying all life and leaving it bare. The sediment loss was immense and no attempt has been made to prevent further sediment loss, erosion or revegetation in a timely manner.</p> <p>p34 7.2.3 bushfire related as volunteer landcarers we repeatedly hear ' no money for managing weeds' and not enough on-ground staff, yet we see plenty of money spent on perhaps less important tasks. There needs to be a budget and staff for waterway weed management. Words in a policy document won't get the jobs done- but they can help put in place enabling staffing and actual work. I think volunteers do help but they can provide only patchy services. It may make more sense to enable volunteers to manage workable sites knowing Shire staff will care for other sites.</p>	<p>Minor changes made to wording under 5.5.9.1 so commentary is clearer.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>The current Planning legislation does give applicants the ability to apply for the setbacks to potentially be varied. Currently there is little guidance under the local Planning legislation as to what matters are to be taken into consideration when such variations are proposed. it is recommended that the Shire implements the action stipulated under section 7.2.2 of the draft WcHS when LPS4 is reviewed.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Submitter 17</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>The Water Hierarchy Strategy is wide ranging and reasonably thorough, and I welcome the Shire's decision to engage ASE in its</p>	

	<p>formulation. I certainly learnt a lot from a careful reading of the document.</p> <p>Comments reference particular section.</p> <p>2.2, 2.3 Of course, much greater stakeholder engagement is necessary, but this requires the Shire in the first instance to reach out to landholders almost individually. Landholders adjacent to Lion Mill Creek are at the moment getting assistance from the Shire’s Landcare Team to access SALP funds for weed control on their properties. This through the agency of the Friends Group. I am aware of other successful collaborations. It seems that Friends and Catchment groups working with the Shire are part of the strategy but they are volunteers, too few and with no financial resources.</p> <p>Education, information, and collaboration are necessary. Employing more staff to engage landholders and assist volunteer groups would be cost saving even in the short term. If the processes in place have not delivered the desired outcomes, then there should be significant consequences when landholders ignore the clear regulations and guidelines. This particularly applies to developers.</p> <p>2.4 It is not clear to me just what watercourses fall within the $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order streams. If 1st and 2nd order streams are not included in the strategy then the strategy will fail. First order streams need protection as being very small are much more vulnerable to impacts on water quality and quantity.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order.</p> <p>The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.</p>
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	<p>2.5.1 4. That Wastewater Treatment Plants are hugely expensive, unreliable in many instances, will certainly fail in the increasing heavy rain events and not necessarily properly monitored should be seen and used as a limiting factor in population increase.</p> <p>2.5.1 7 The impacts of climate change are visible now. Unchecked erosion from fast flowing water has already impacted waterways and riparian vegetation. This will only become worse in future.</p> <p>4.3 Nutrient Transport. Recent research quoted in document states <i>“Low order streams were found to have the highest nutrient and sediment concentrations and were more dominated by surface runoff. These lower order or smaller watercourses therefore represent the best opportunity to attenuate nutrients and sediment.”</i> How are small order streams to be protected? In my patch: where does Jane Brook become a 3rd order stream? Is Lion Mill Creek a 2nd order? Is Charlotte Creek a 1st or 2nd order? What of Rocky Gully and Marionvale?</p>  <p>It is appreciated that the LiDAR data obtained is limited (Urban Plan Attachment 1) but this and on-ground observation should only</p>	<p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire’s LPS4.</p> <p>Noted. These are some of the reasons why wastewater treatment plants have been identified as a general issue under the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>The recommended actions under section 7.2 are intended to ensure that watercourses will be adequately protected.</p> <p>For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as ≥3rd order.</p>
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<p>a starting point. Smaller order streams must be mapped and included in any strategy.</p> <p>6.2.3 Intended Approach to Management Map all waterways above stream 3 order and assign a hierarchy. See 4.3 above. Identify and implement setbacks to all watercourses. Does this include 1st and 2nd order streams? If so, how are the setbacks to be assigned?</p> <p>6.25 Objectives Manage bushfire fuel loads and invasive weeds. The methods used in fire management has become contentious. Forestry mulching contributes to erosion as much as burning and the frequency of burns must be carefully calibrated. Many species take 15 years to regenerate. Mechanical and chemical weed control, while labour intensive, is safer for maintaining biodiversity.</p> <p>7.2.4 Stormwater detention Stormwater management should be a top priority in SoM budget; retrofit existing infrastructure and build more retention basins. Forget the footpaths, this problem will only grow. Don't treat tiny streams as drains, they are vital to the overall health of the waterways, here and downstream.</p> <p>7.2.8 information dissemination All good, particularly electronic platform</p> <p>7.2.7 Cultural Heritage SoM is late coming to this position, but involvement can only benefit both groups.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this process which eventually will benefit not only the Shire of Mundaring, but all of</p>	<p>The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., ≥3rd order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.</p> <p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>Perth. Decisive action now and binding regulations into the future will protect and enhance our waterways and unique biodiversity.</p>	
<p>Submitter 18</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>It is fantastic that the Shire of Mundaring has taken this step. The level of consultation in the development of this strategy has been excellent.</p> <p>Reference to the Wooroloo Brook LCDC is redundant given that the group has been closed for more than 12 years. Referring to the Wooroloo Brook Landcare Group is a current way to do this. The previous members of WBLCDC that were referred to were not listed but I would expect that they may be synonymous with the new group. Happy to discuss if that's helpful.</p> <p>It is not an easy strategy to read and interpret. This feedback was also provided to me from several community volunteers that have not made submissions for this reason.</p> <p>4.3 states that low order streams were found to have the highest nutrient and sediment concentrations but it appears as though this strategy has only mapped 3rd order streams and higher. Will this mean that only these higher order streams will be protected through implementation of buffers? Protection of all waterways is vital. Protecting and enhancing the upper reaches of the the catchment will support stabilised bed and banks helping to reduce scour and sedimentation downstream. Serious environmental weed issues often arise from the top of the catchment and if left unmanaged can continue to spread and re-infest areas downstream.</p>	<p>Noted. Suggested change made.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order.</p> <p>The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.</p> <p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4.</p>

	<p>Threatened species and communities are mentioned in this strategy but not detailed. One federally listed threatened species (vulnerable) relevant to this strategy which demonstrates the importance of protecting and restoring riparian vegetation is Carters freshwater mussel (<i>Westralunio carteri</i>). This species present in some of the wetlands and waterways of the Shire of Mundaring and this strategy will not protect the habitat of this species long term if only 3rd order streams will be afforded protection.</p> <p>Protection of all waterways in line with the identified appropriate buffers in this strategy (table 1 and 2) will have multi species and ecosystem benefits in terms of habitat value, water quality, connectivity and resilience. This strategy recognises the needs of the local community for more support but does not make recommendations to address it. Additional support for the Eastern Region Landcare program would improve the capacity to support landcare volunteers in restoring riparian vegetation and engaging and educating private landholders.</p>	<p>Noted. All watercourses will be afforded some level of protection under LPS4.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Submitter 19</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the Watercourse Hierarchy. I believe most of my concerns have been addressed by the proposed management plan –</p> <p>A couple of things that I couldn't see covered were there following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The watercourses often serve as movement corridors for animals (including kangaroos, bandicoots and water birds). Lots of these animals are being hit crossing roads from one side to the other. A strategy going forward into how these deaths can be prevented would be good (so how do you get the water under a road as well as provide a wildlife crossing? Potentially these roads (like the Roland Road Clutterbuck creek crossing) will become heavily trafficked (schools, developments etc) and it will become difficult for 	<p>As stated under the draft Local Biodiversity Strategy (draft LBS), “road reserves are multi-purpose corridors for transport, drainage, utilities and telecommunications infrastructure, and trees and vegetation. The Shire retains native vegetation within road reserves where practical, but is not able to actively manage roadsides for environmental enhancement due to resource constraints”. The draft LBS also acknowledges the</p>

	<p>ducks and other water birds and fauna to cross. I have stopped for ducks crossing at Jane Brook (Parky Pitstop) every year and have seen many hit there. (Can road tunnels be included in development?)</p> <p>- Waterways are often fenced inhibiting movement of larger fauna species (roos) and then the fences become damaged and dangerous to them.</p> <p>- With set back distances from the creek, I think the steepness of the land needs to be taken into account as well as density. I live on land that is about 11 degrees and so much topsoil is run off into Clutterbuck creek. I watched a lot of sand from a building site (across the creek from me) run into the soil with the heavy winter rains. It was like a creek itself. While this neighbour unfortunately took no action, if a plan was in place to have further set backs and also storm water control the sediment run off perhaps wouldn't have made it to the creek. Slopey land leading to waterways need to have bigger set backs going forward I feel. Sorry if I missed this.</p> <p>- Weed spraying co-ordination with FO groups. Consultation and yearly planning assistance with active groups would be fantastic. My neighbour and I were dissappointed when some wattles were spray along the creek line near our homes as we were concerned for the impact on frogs etc. It is disheartening when you are caring for a patch of land and are very familiar with it and then things happen to it that you do not know about. In the wattle incident we are watching them and know they are an issue but are planning to remove by hand on a weeding day. It would be great if this cross over of actions could be aligned somehow.</p> <p>- Seedling planting sometimes feels a bit disheartening and I am wondering if spreading seed might be the better way to increase plant biodiversity. That way the plants that form are strong and able to survive off their own root structure. Seed spread with indigenous species? Is this being practised anywhere?</p>	<p>importance connections between nature reserves and other natural areas play in terms of allowing the movement of wildlife.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted. Such matters will be taken into consideration as part of point o) of the proposed LPS4 clause.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>- Consultation on planning goals vs volunteer capacity would be a fantastic offering by the shire. If someone come and met with us and led us through a plan for the year we would happily fulfil it. I am time poor having a 9yo and homeschooling. I know the priority is for creek weeding and stopping erosion through putting in a ripple bed etc. I know there are grants available this year.. but it is likely I will miss it. Is there a way to fund Jane Brook catchment legends like Una to come and meet with us and help us with our yearly plan? Or Katherine from the shire to come out and talk about priorities and help us structure our yearly plan? These offerings would inspire my neighbour and I to keep up the care of our patch of the creek with the goal of extending our friends of Members. Empower each of the individual groups ensures custodianship of these areas and helps build community.</p> <p>- I see once our area along the creek is healthy and lush that some community members will be concerned about fire management. It would also be good if this could be done in consultation with active friends of group/community members so that any known priority species or seedling plants that are growing in that area can be shown to the firies prior to the burn.</p> <p>Thank you so much. It looks fabulous.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Submitter 20</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>I write as a long-term coordinator of the Falls Park Reserve and very long-term Mundaring Shire resident (since the 1970s). The draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy is a sound document in my view and is most welcome. A few rather minor issues need to be attended to, such as reference to foreshores and policies that have no jurisdiction in WA, and the misspelling of a local suburb.</p> <p>A bigger question, and one that I do not know the answer to, is whether the buffer areas for watercourses in the Mundaring hills (that are mentioned in the draft paper) are right for the very hilly</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>These setbacks are already stipulated under LPS4. The current Planning legislation does give applicants the ability to apply for the setbacks to potentially be varied. Currently there is little guidance under the local Planning</p>

	<p>topography of the area, and given the hard and mainly compacted nature of our lateritic soils.</p> <p>Two other big questions are about whether a thorough consideration of Traditional Owner custodial rights over watercourses is going to be incorporated into the Strategy, and how the Watercourse strategy will complement the Shire’s Local Biodiversity and Climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.</p> <p>Below are comments that relate to the draft paper’s recommendations –</p> <p>1. Better control of storm flow peak-velocities for improved erosion control. I support this recommendation, my experience of the need for this recommendation to be implement include:</p> <p>1. Housing estate erosion and sediment pollution In my experience, as the coordinator of a Friends Group, is that housing estates, such as Harmony Estate, should not be</p>	<p>legislation as to what matters are to be taken into consideration when such variations are proposed. it is recommended that the Shire implements the action stipulated under section 7.2.2 of the draft WcHS when LPS4 is reviewed.</p> <p>The WcHS concludes that the Shire’s existing statutory provisions are largely effective and require only minor refinements. These refinements will be considered as part of the minor review of Local Planning Scheme No.4.</p> <p>The draft WcHS defines the key issues and threats facing the management of watercourses in the Shire and recommends corresponding strategic, planning based and operational actions. The recommendations will inform statutory land use decisions under LPS4, future investigations, operational priorities and stormwater interventions. The outcomes of this strategy have informed the development of the draft LBS (particularly the wildlife corridor mapping) and Public Open Space strategy. Further, it is intended that the findings of the draft WcHS shape the future review of the Local Planning Strategy and the next iterations of the Shire’s local planning scheme.</p> <p>1. Bank and bed erosion have been observed across the Shire. Erosion caused by swiftly flowing storm flows has the potential to damage associated infrastructure such as roads, bridges and paths, and lead to sedimentation and turbidity impacts on aquatic habitats. The following are</p>
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	<p>allowed to proceed without a through consideration of the risk of storm surges in hilly areas uphill from a watercourse. In the case of Harmony Estate storm flow goes directly down a road and into a road reserve, then directly into a Jane Brook. I have observed considerable erosion and sediment pollution into Jane Brook because of poor drainage planning on the downward slope from that housing estate into Jane Brook, the worst I have ever seen in the hills (and neighbours downhill have had to put up with significant sediment flow into their driveways and gardens).</p> <p>2. Hard curbing water and road pollution flow Storm flow is also a significant problem on Falls Rd where hard curbing has been put along the side of a property that backs on Jane Brook, in this case significant undercutting of the bank, and road pollution in direct run off into the creek has occurred. This is a problem elsewhere in the Shire.</p> <p>3. Climate change erosion and sediment pollution and visitors post since Covid Over the past 10 years it has become more difficult for volunteers to manage the extent of erosion and sediment pollution due to changes in the velocity of water flow. Also, extreme weather events are reducing riparian zone planting success. These new risks are caused by a changing climate. This is further exacerbated by increasing visitor (with their pets) pressures on beautiful places along Jane Brook, such as Falls Park. At the same time, the Shire does not seem to have had the resources to cope with this relatively new situation either.</p> <p>4. Groundwater and run off In the past, in the height of summer, ground water levels would ensure that water levels in Jane Brook would remain longer, and along much of the course of the stream, pools of water would remain all through summer. This no longer happens; the stream tends to be completely dry in the main over summer. The risks to aquatic species, and riparian zone plants and other living</p>	<p>recommendations under the draft WcHS to address this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrofit in-line and off-line stormwater treatment mechanisms to reduce erosion by peak storm velocities: SoM. • Stormwater management systems should apply endemic vegetation to promote filtering, reduce velocity of stormwater runoff to approximate pre-development conditions: SoM and Proponent. <p>2. Noted.</p> <p>3. Noted.</p> <p>4. Noted. Watercourses and the riparian zones along the banks are identified under the draft WcHS as being under threat. Key threats include changing rainfall patterns due to climate change, land use and development pressures and increasing impervious surfaces causing erosion and sedimentation. Climate uncertainty is seen as</p>
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	<p>things in and along watercourses are significant. Dams have become the last refugia of some species. A focus on the resolution of this serious problem is needed.</p> <p>All the rest of the recommendations in the draft strategy are also supported, as actions such as these have proven to have worked in the work that the Friends of Falls Park. Shire staff and Jane Brook catchment group have done to support land care volunteers on private properties upstream from the Falls Park Reserve, along the Heritage Trail reserve and at Falls Park Reserve – including –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A greater focus on protecting and rehabilitating ecological function and biodiversity along watercourse corridors, especially through urban and rural residential areas; • Better coordinate and integrate watercourse corridor protective and restorative efforts between responsible agencies and communities; • The provision of information about watercourse ecology and function so as to inform and help landowners become responsible land managers; and • An improvement to the sharing of information about bushfire mitigation works and ecological restoration efforts along corridors; To facilitate and support a greater level of community and agency awareness and involvement with watercourse corridor protections and enhancements to broaden and strengthen local ownership and appreciation of these valuable ecological systems. <p>The Shire communicates with people who have an interest in the environment in several constructive ways. I have found that Environmental Advisory Committee, the Six Seasons Newsletter and the one-on-one advice provided by individual officers and in</p>	<p>leading to two potentially adverse impacts on the Shire’s streamlines. This includes the predictions of falling overall rainfall for the Perth environs leading to drying of riparian areas. Predictions of increasing frequencies of extreme weather and rainfall conditions have raised concerns over increased velocities of stormwater runoff and subsequent increases in erosion.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
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	<p>workshops, and the numerous resources, such as booklets, that are available online on the Shire’s webpage, and the environmental art project conducted through primary schools, have been very valuable. As a participant and convener of the Friends of Falls Park reserve for over 15 years, and as a previous member of the EAC, I have been impressed by all of this.</p> <p>It would be useful to articulate the work done by the Shire to engage with the community - inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower - in a systematic way about the protection and enhancement of watercourses (that is, to do this in accordance with the IAP2 Framework for Public Participation which the Shire has adopted in its Community Engagement Plan).</p> <p>In my experience most people who buy a property with a stream running through it or next to it, know very little about watercourse ecology and how to care for watercourses– and where to go for advice. This was the case for me, and for other private landowners who have been keenly involved in the Friends of Falls Park upstream riparian zone restoration work (done mainly to prevent weeds vectoring into the Reserve and enhance water quality and the adjacent heritage trial wildlife corridor). Advice from the Shire officers and workshops have been useful, and these services need to be better resourced.</p>	<p>Noted, the Shire will take this into consideration when implementing the actions under section 7.2.6 of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Submitter 21</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>To successfully protect and enhance watercourses in the Shire, all waterways must be considered in the strategy. Small tributaries are vital to the health of the system, as noted in the strategy. These need appropriate riparian vegetation and strategies to encourage such management.</p>	<p>For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as ≥3rd order.</p> <p>The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., ≥3rd order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current</p>

	<p>Forest mulching is controversial, with evidence proving it causes erosion and long-term damage to the ecosystem. Better fire management mitigation needs to be considered.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.</p>	<p>investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.</p> <p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
<p>Submitter 22</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>I'm generally fully supportive of the recommendations of the consultant. Having spent too much time reading and responding to the Biodiversity strategy draft, I haven't time available to deal with this one in a similar way. Fortunately there is much overlap in principle.</p> <p>Our waterways, particularly the smaller ones traversing in part through private property, are 'a mess', and show clear degradation much like many of our road verges. As I referred to in the the BD Strategy, waterways are another 'edge effect' with the additional ability to transport problems rapidly from one place to another. They require special, intensive and consistent ongoing attention by all concerned.</p> <p>This draft seems to point to that and, if adopted AND substantially implemented, should avoid things getting worse and hopefully allow some long-term recovery. Our waterways are such a characteristic part of our special landscape it is about time they received some real love and care by all responsible. The previous Watercourse Strategy has had a poor outcome in most respects and been generally disappointing. Hopefully this new strategy along with the BD Strategy will help. Please get on with it.</p>	<p>Noted. Watercourses and the riparian zones along the banks are identified under the draft WcHS as being under threat. Key threats include changing rainfall patterns due to climate change, land use and development pressures and increasing impervious surfaces causing erosion and sedimentation. It is hoped that the actions recommended under the draft WcHS will address the issues identified.</p>

<p>Submitter 23</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>The Shire of Mundaring is commended for undertaking high resolution LiDAR mapping of watercourses within the Shire and preparing the draft WcHS to support Local Planning Scheme No. 4 and improve protection, restoration and water quality outcomes for its waterways.</p> <p>The following table summarises comments from DWER's Urban Water and Waterways sections that reviewed the document. Note that while DWER is generally supportive of the strategy and finds it to be fit for purpose, we will assess proposals that may impact waterways on a site-specific basis and may provide advice that differs from a position in the WcHS where this is supported by our policies and guidance, as is indicated in section 2.4, paragraph 2 of the WcHS.</p>		<p>Noted.</p> <p>All of the suggested changes have been made to the draft WcHS with the exception of the suggestion regarding section 5.5.1.</p> <p>These setbacks are already stipulated under LPS4 and it is not a recommendation that they be changed. If a development application proposes to vary these setback provisions then the Shire will have regard to the matters listed under section 7.2.2 of the draft WcHS, including any comments which might have been obtained from the DWER.</p>					
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Page</th> <th>Section</th> <th>Comment/issue</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2.1</td> <td> <p>It is suggested including the intent of the following texts: Depending upon the land use characteristics and erosion potentials, water quality can also be an issue. Non-structural controls including education and awareness for stormwater management would be an effective approach for such catchments. These are institutional and pollution prevention practices designed to prevent or minimise pollutants from entering stormwater runoff and/or to reduce the volume of stormwater requiring management.</p> <p>These include better practices of local government operations, asset managers, industrial/commercial businesses and</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Page	Section	Comment/issue	1	2.1	<p>It is suggested including the intent of the following texts: Depending upon the land use characteristics and erosion potentials, water quality can also be an issue. Non-structural controls including education and awareness for stormwater management would be an effective approach for such catchments. These are institutional and pollution prevention practices designed to prevent or minimise pollutants from entering stormwater runoff and/or to reduce the volume of stormwater requiring management.</p> <p>These include better practices of local government operations, asset managers, industrial/commercial businesses and</p>	
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			householders, through mechanisms such as maintenance practices, regulation, strategic planning and education. They usually work by changing behaviour through government regulation (e.g. planning and environmental laws), education and/or economic instruments. Education and awareness for stormwater management can be developed by various sectors of the community to raise awareness and provide a catalyst for a behaviour change to reduce pollution entering the stormwater system.
12	3.7		Replace 'flexible approach' with 'site-specific criteria based approach' for clarity.
18	5.2		Government Sewerage Policy could be mentioned here. Also consider whether it is relevant to specifically mention Public Drinking Water Source Areas under Water Resource Management.
18	5.3		DWER refers to Operational Policy 4.3 by its full title which is 'Operational Policy 4.3 Identifying and establishing waterways foreshore areas'.
18	5.3		Missing text from dot point 3. It should read as follows: 'Final foreshore area at the local planning level, or at the district level if the risks are high, there are significant site constraints and if detailed district structure planning is being undertaken.'
18	5.3.1		No reference is provided for the prioritisation steps.
19	5.3.2		To 'aquatic ecosystems' could add location of refuge pools and maintaining aquatic connectivity Also included 'associated wetlands' where these occur.

	19	5.3.4	Riparian vegetation is generally considered to have an extreme fire risk and require appropriate hazard separation distances. See SPP 2.9 guidelines section 6.1.5 states: 'Waterway foreshore areas and wetland buffers are generally bushfire prone areas that have implications for bushfire risk management and the design of future land developments in their vicinity. Consideration of bushfire risk management in accordance with State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas and the development of a bushfire management plan is likely to be required.'
	21	5.4.1	The reference for this should be stated as Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water Guidelines (2021) p. 24, not 'Guidance notes'
	21	5.4.1	'iii. Maintenance of the natural hydrology of the waterway' is a separate dot point
	22	5.5.1	Point b) minimum setback for all buildings and earthworks from the top of the bank of any watercourse shall be in the absence of a specific setback, 20m in the residential zone and 30m in all other zones. A setback of 20m in the residential zone may be considered by DWER too small for all except the smallest waterways.
	26	6.1	Point c) should refer to 'the restoration of native vegetation'
	34	7.2.2	'Identify and map 20 metre and 30 metre watercourse setbacks in urban and peri-urban areas respectively.' See comment for section 5.5.1 above.
	34	7.2.3	Note native revegetation designed to maintain low bushfire risk (eg. plants less

		than 20cm height) is not usually compatible with foreshore improvement.
Note appendices have not been reviewed in detail.		
48	Appendix 1 -	This text should be moved to Water Resources Management Section as this is to prevent salinisation of water supplies: 'Note: DWER also assesses and grants permits under the Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 to clear vegetation within specified water supply catchments.' The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909 is also relevant, including Public Drinking Water Source Areas.
49	Appendix 1	Text appears to be missing from paragraph 4, meaning isn't clear; Paragraph 5 should refer to DWER not Department of Water
54	Appendix 2	Paragraph 2 states 'Over time however, this has been eroded to 10% multi-use corridors. This has meant that foreshore reserves now include areas for stormwater management contained within them'. This is not a supported position. Refer to WAPC 2002 'Development Control Policy 2.3 Public Open Space' section 3.2.6 which states 'It should be noted that where the Commission considers that a foreshore reserve is to be given up as a condition of subdivision, the area of foreshore so required will not be included in the gross subdivisible area on which the public open space requirement is assessed and will be in addition to the land required for public open space.' Stormwater management areas should be located outside the foreshores area. This is mentioned in WcHS section 5.4.1 dot point

		<p>11. Refer to the 'Decision process for stormwater management' p. 7 which states: 'Locate stormwater management systems outside of conservation category wetlands, resource enhancement category wetlands, other wetlands of high conservation significance, and their buffers, and waterways, coastal marine areas, and their foreshore areas. This will reduce the impacts on receiving water bodies, such as altered hydrology, declining water quality and introduction of weed seeds.'</p> <p>Note that it can be acceptable to locate stormwater and bushfire management measures in POS adjacent to an identified foreshore area, but the foreshore area should be identified first and excluded from gross subdivisible area and POS calculations.</p>	
<p>Submitter 24</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>DBCA supports the pro-active approach of the Draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy and acknowledges the good community engagement with key stakeholders, including catchment groups and the Shire of Mundaring Environmental Advisory Committee. DBCA acknowledges that the strategy will provide guidance for the development of strategic planning documents for the Shire and assist with the integration of waterways management and protection in local government planning processes. The strategy will also be useful to guide the review of the Eastern Hills Management Plan and it is recommended that the strategy be forwarded to Perth NRM (Eastern Region Landcare Coordinator).</p> <p>It is noted that the strategy refers to various terms that are used interchangeably throughout the document such as riparian areas,</p>		<p>Noted. The Shire invited Perth NRM to provide comment on the draft WcHS.</p> <p>Suggested changes made.</p>

	<p>riparian corridors, riparian buffers, riparian zones, stream buffer widths and foreshore areas, which can be confusing for the reader. It is recommended that the terminology used in the strategy is consolidated and revised to be consistent with the terminology and definitions within Western Australian State Government policy and guidelines. <i>Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water</i> and the associated guidelines refer to 'foreshore areas' and DBCA recommends that the strategy adopts the term 'foreshore areas', as it encompasses all of the various terms listed above that have been discussed in the document.</p> <p>It is noted that the strategy includes some references to historical documents and agencies (e.g. Water and Rivers Commission) that have been superseded and it is suggested that more recent documents are referred to if available.</p> <p>The following provides specific advice on the content of the strategy and suggested improvements to the document.</p> <p>2.1 Context (p. 1) Change reference of Swan River Trust to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.</p> <p>2.5.1 Generic issues (p. 4) Suggest including plant diseases such as <i>Phytophthora</i> dieback and Myrtle Rust.</p> <p>2.5.2 Localised issues (p. 5) It is noted that the Lower Helena River Catchment Group is listed. DBCA understands that there are two local groups – Lower Helena Association and Helena River Catchment Group. Recommend clarifying which group has identified the issues presented in the strategy and ensure the other group is also consulted.</p> <p>3.5 How wide should protected riparian corridors be? (p. 10) Recommend consolidating and including sections 3.5 and 3.7 with section 5.3.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Reference to the Lower Helena River Catchment Group removed as it conducts works within the City of Swan, not with the Shire of Mundaring. The Helena River Catchment Group have been consulted regarding the draft WcHS by the Shire.</p> <p>It is considered more appropriate to have sections 3.5 and 3.7 in their current locations as Part 3 of the draft WcHS deals with the characteristics of foreshore areas.</p>
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	<p>3.6 Impacts on Mundaring’s watercourses (p. 11) The text from this section could be integrated into section 4 to provide an introduction and improve the flow of the document.</p> <p>3.7 Western Australia preferred riparian buffers (p. 12) It is recommended that information relating to the Western Australian approach is included before discussing specific details and examples from other jurisdictions. Information related to other jurisdictions may be more appropriate to include in an appendix, if the information is considered necessary for the strategy. It is recommended that the dot point ‘remove the need for vegetated buffers in addition to a riparian zone’ is clarified as the statement may suggest that vegetated buffers are not required.</p> <p>4.2 Sediment transport (p. 13) The accumulation of sediment in waterways may also reduce the available habitat for instream flora and fauna.</p> <p>5 Legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks for riparian corridors in Australia (p. 16) It is recommended that section 5.2, which outlines Western Australian regulatory and policy frameworks, is included up-front before discussion of other jurisdictions.</p> <p>5.2 Legislative, regulatory and policy frameworks – WA (p. 17) A substantial area of the Helena River within the Shire of Mundaring is located within the Swan Canning Development Control Area (DCA). It is recommended that the DCA, as defined under the <i>Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006</i>, is included within the key considerations.</p> <p>As the majority of the Shire of Mundaring is not connected to reticulated sewerage, wastewater management and on-site sewage disposal in accordance with the <i>Government Sewerage Policy</i> (2019) is recommended for inclusion as a key consideration.</p>	<p>Suggested changes made.</p> <p>It is considered more appropriate to have this section in its current location as Part 3 of the draft WcHS deals with the characteristics of foreshore areas.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p>
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	<p>5.3 How are foreshore areas identified (p. 18) Recommend editing the text of the following sentence to read ‘A foreshore area that has been defined appropriately will.’</p> <p>5.3.2 Stream buffer widths (p. 19) Recommend that a separate dot point is included for ecological linkages to reiterate the importance of foreshore areas as linkages and corridors for fauna movement. It is also noted that ecological linkages were identified by the community as a key issue.</p> <p>5.3.3 Adjacent landuse and management (p. 19) It should be acknowledged that surrounding landuses may also generate point source pollution and the discharge of contaminants into waterways.</p> <p>5.3.4 Bushfire risk management (p. 19) Amend the text for the second sentence to read ‘It is important the revegetation strategies do not exacerbate bushfire risks for adjoining built and habitable assets’.</p> <p>It is also recommended that the implementation of fire breaks and turn arounds are planned in conjunction with community groups and minimise the impact on remnant vegetation and revegetation wherever possible.</p> <p>5.4 State Planning Policy 2.9 (p. 20) Replace Swan River Trust with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and delete Water and Rivers Commission.</p> <p>5.4.1 Values (p. 21) It is recommended that reference to ‘declared plants’ in point 4 is removed so that all environmental weeds are considered and not just declared agricultural weeds. Suggest that point 7 is revised so that clearing of vegetation (or avoiding planting native vegetation) will not be justified to provide water views. It should be acknowledged that the management of mosquitoes/midges and</p>	<p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested changes made.</p>
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	<p>other nuisance insects is dependent on minimising areas of stagnant water and maintaining restoration areas, in addition to the implementation of adequate separation distances that are preferably vegetated.</p> <p>5.4.2 State Planning Policy 2.10: Swan Canning Rivers (p. 21) State Planning Policy 2.10 has been replaced by Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 as stated in section 5.4. It is recommended that the relevant text from section 11 of <i>Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water Guidelines</i> regarding the Swan Canning River System and the role of the Swan River Trust is included in section 5.4.</p> <p>5.5.1 Clause 5.7.5 (p. 22) It is noted that the Shire of Mundaring’s Local Planning Scheme No. 4 identifies a minimum setback to a watercourse of 20m in the residential zone and 30m in other zones. The minimum setback of 20m in the residential zone is not consistent with <i>Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 Planning for Water Guidelines</i>, which states ‘The width of the foreshore area or reserve should be at least a minimum of 30 metres for waterways’. While exceptions to the minimum width may be considered in some limited circumstances, foreshore widths of less than 30m are generally not considered to provide adequate protection for waterways. DBCA recommends that the Shire of Mundaring align Local Planning Scheme No. 4 with Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 in regard to the minimum widths of foreshore areas.</p> <p>6.2.2 Biodiversity principle 1.1 (p. 26) It is not clear where this principle has been derived from and the text also requires editing for clarity.</p> <p>6.2.4 Key issues and threats (p. 27) Recommend that the key issues and threats for loss of biodiversity and damage to ecosystems are combined as they relate to both. Feral animals should be included in the key issues and threats with</p>	<p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>These setbacks are already stipulated under LPS4 and it is not a recommendation that they be changed. If a development application proposes to vary these setback provisions then the Shire will have regard to the matters listed under section 7.2.2 of the draft WcHS, including any comments which might have been obtained from the DBCA.</p> <p>6.2.2 has been removed.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p>
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	<p>suggested text as ‘predation of native fauna and native plant herbivory by feral animals’.</p> <p>6.3 GIS-based streamline assessment and mapping (p. 28) It is noted that first and second order streams were not included in the analysis. Considering that many of these smaller order streams are at the top of the catchment, they may still be important in influencing downstream impacts. DBCA may have some historical mapping that could contribute towards addressing this gap and can search archival records if the Shire of Mundaring would like to pursue this matter.</p> <p>Figure 3 (p. 29) The colour categories for biodiversity priorities are difficult to read on Figure 3 and it might be easier to view if individual maps were provided for each catchment.</p> <p>Figure 4 (p. 30) The line weighting for stream orders 7 and 3 is similar and hard to distinguish.</p>	<p>Noted. For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order.</p> <p>The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.</p> <p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire’s LPS4.</p> <p>Strategic issues have been collated as a strategic overview (Figure 3). In addition to the spatial spread of streamline-related issues across the shire, this map also shows the main waterway sub-catchments within the Shire, the Strahler stream orders 3-9 for mid-sized and larger streams, Perth Biodiversity Priority areas and the shire’s existing and proposed urban cells. The colour categories are considered to be clear enough for the purpose of the draft WcHS.</p> <p>A strategic outlook has been developed (Figure 4), based on recommended actions to address the identified issues within the Shire’s current and evolving legislative, regulatory and policy framework. This figure also shows a clearer depiction of the Strahler streamlines and strategic directions for the various zones across the Shire. A cross-sectional elevation profile was developed for the Shire from the provided contours (Figure 5). This</p>
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	<p>7 Recommended prioritised and assigned strategies and actions (p. 32) This section is important to bring the strategy together and provide future direction. It is recommended that clear linkages between the generic principles (7.1) and the relevant proposed actions (7.2) are provided to demonstrate how the priorities will be addressed. A clear and concise implementation process for the actions identified in the strategy should be provided to outline how the strategy will progress.</p> <p>7.2 Recommend best-practice stormwater management for various catchment situations (p.33) Suggest that the heading of this section be revised to reflect that it comprises prioritised actions.</p> <p>7.2.2 Waterway setbacks and buffers (p. 33, 34) Suggest editing point i) to read ‘Whether there are any implications for bushfire risk and, if applicable, achieving the BAL-29 rating for areas designated for future development’. It is recommended that the buffer distance be increased within and adjacent to areas that support high biodiversity.</p> <p>7.2.3 Bushfire related (p. 34) Suggest inclusion of an additional dot point ‘the impacts of too frequent or infrequent and intense bushfires or prescribed burns on native vegetation’.</p> <p>7.2.7 Cultural heritage (p. 35) Consider also approaching Aboriginal Elders for advice on bushfire management.</p>	<p>acts as a key for describing and identifying zones for the Strategic outlook (Figure 4), and also presents a conceptual stormwater and an erosion management strategy highlighting slope-zones.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>The suggested changes to point i) are considered unnecessary in order to comply with the State bushfire requirements. It is also considered unnecessary to increase the setback distances in order to support high biodiversity. The current setback provisions adequately achieve this already.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p>
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	<p>Appendix 1 (p. 46) The Australian Government agency that administers the EPBC Act is the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. The text under the heading 'Commonwealth' should be edited accordingly. Include the <i>Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006</i> under the 'State Government' heading related to legislation. Suggested text below for inclusion:</p> <p>The <i>Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006</i> (SCRM Act) aims to ensure that land use planning and development protects and enhances the ecological health, amenity and heritage value of the Swan Canning river system. DBCA has overall planning, protection and management responsibility for the Swan Canning river system under the SCRM Act. The Swan River Trust is an advisory body created by the SCRM Act and provides independent, high-level, strategic advice to the Minister for Environment and DBCA on matters affecting the Swan and Canning rivers.</p> <p>DBCA Conservation Programs (p. 52) Please note that the Western Australian Roadside Conservation Committee has been disbanded and DBCA no longer has responsibility for a roadside conservation program.</p>	<p>Suggested change made.</p> <p>Suggested change made.</p>
<p>Submitter 25</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <p>We thank all involved in the care- taking of the health of the extensive watercourse network in Shire of Mundaring. Shire of Mundaring has a Duty of Care to establish and maintain riparian zones along all our waterways to improve waterway health. Sustaining water quantity as well as water quality in our waterways raises new challenges in a changing climate. A Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy has a key role in determining the success (or not) of the Shire's vision – 'A Place for Sustainable Living – and more broadly in ensuring environmental security in our region. Water is Life.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

	<p>The fundamental importance of protecting Biodiversity should not be underestimated. Waterways are important reserves of biodiversity and provide valuable habitat and corridors for native fish, birds, amphibians and mammals and provide, in some cases, a setting for recreational activities. We need to know how many of our waterways are in poor or very poor condition and why, to get a better understanding of the task ahead.</p> <p>Mundaring's waterways need to be carefully managed and any landuse change designed around that to prevent further harm to an already damaged environment. Does Mundaring have a referential approach, does Mundaring have a benchmark of the environmental condition of its waterways? If so when was that benchmark produced? While comparing the existing river condition against a reference condition is useful and of much interest to many of us in the community, it takes no account of what can be done to improve the condition (if at all). it seems sensible to now move away from comparing the current condition with the reference condition and instead comparing the current condition with its management target condition. This change will be challenging. However, it may deliver a more meaningful interpretation of waterway condition and will allow an assessment to be made of how management efforts are contributing towards meeting management targets. We require a clear idea of what those management targets are and this Draft Strategy is not yet providing that. A redraft is needed.</p> <p>Required is reporting at small spatial scales. This will then allow two types of condition to be assessed – (a) background condition at the reach scale – useful in detecting gross changes in waterway condition due to climate change and natural variability and (b) condition at sites that have had active management intervention.</p> <p>We reject the title given to the document : 'Urban Plan / watercourse hierarchy strategy' , as we know of no plans put to the community for urbanisation of Mundaring, apart from the proposed highly contentious North Stoneville development. The words 'Urban Plan / Design Development were not used in the initial</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Shire at present does not have a “benchmark” of the environmental condition of watercourses within its area.</p> <p>The draft WcHS defines the key issues and threats facing the management of watercourses in the Shire and recommends corresponding strategic, planning based and operational actions. The purpose of the draft WcHS is not to outline any specific management targets.</p> <p>Part 7 of the draft WcHS outlines the recommended actions so that watercourses are protected and in some cases rehabilitated.</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>The title of the document is the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy. Urban Plan is the name of the Consultancy who were appointed by the Shire to assist with preparing the draft WcHS. There is nothing in the document relating to the urbanisation of any area.</p>
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	<p>advertising, so has the community been misled?</p> <p>We can therefore only tentatively support some of the recommended prioritised and assigned strategies and actions described on page 32 and presented in the Executive Summary page iii.</p> <p>What are the 'other more specific actions' ? Clarification is needed.</p> <p>A community seminar(s) is needed to explain this complex document before any decisions can be made. Why was this not done before the Strategy was drafted and released?</p> <p>Friends of Quenda Hollow Nature Reserve want to know what is proposed for their reserve. We want to know how water catchments will be affected.</p> <p>Number 1, page 32 : <i>“Better control of storm flow peak-velocities across the shire for improved erosion control”</i> especially needs detailed clarification as to what that entails and why. With increasingly less water flowing along waterways, erosion is obviously much less of a problem. Erosion is being successfully</p>	<p>Please refer to Part 7 of the draft WcHS which outlines the recommended actions so that watercourses are protected and in some cases rehabilitated.</p> <p>As outlined in the external consultation section of the Council report, the draft WcHS has been extensively advertised to various groups, government agencies etc.</p> <p>A workshop was held with Catchment Groups prior to the draft WcHS which took the groups through some of the recent science and policy in relation to such matters as erosion control, streamlining and riparian buffers. The Shire sought input on these matters and any other issues the groups believed should be taken into consideration during the preparation of the Strategy.</p> <p>As verbally advised by the Shire to the submitter prior to their submission being received, Shire Officers are available to assist with any queries they have about the draft WcHS.</p> <p>At this stage nothing is proposed specifically for this reserve.</p> <p>Please refer to clause 7.2.4 of the draft WcHS.</p>
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	<p>managed over time through establishment of strategically planted reeds and riparian vegetation, done by volunteers. That process can be speeded up and the suggestion that not enough volunteers are available to do the job seems a spurious one.</p> <p>'Flooding events are seldom, mild and very brief at this point in time.</p> <p>Has Mundaring shire considered assessing remote sensing data eg LIDAR and aerial photography to do flood risk mapping here?</p> <p>It appears stream order is used in Regulation. We require an explanation of how and why the NSW Dept. of Industry Strahler system is applied here in Mundaring, and why all watercourses are given an order 3 classification in the document. Surely this is an oversimplification. Inappropriate for Mundaring. The background history is a lot more complex</p> <p>Have existing waterway corridors been fully identified throughout Mundaring? How and where are new ones proposed to be established? Waterway corridors and associated riparian vegetation provide a range of primary river health functions,</p>	<p>LiDAR was obtained by the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS to determine and classify watercourses. No flood risk mapping has been produced to date using the LIDAR data obtained.</p> <p>The Strahler system is consistent across all states. The draft WcHS makes reference to watercourse related requirements which exist in other states to see how it compares to similar legislation within Western Australia.</p> <p>For the purpose of the draft WcHS, a watercourse has been defined as $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order.</p> <p>The 1st and 2nd order streams were not included because of greater levels of uncertainty associated with small differences in elevation recorded by the LiDAR laser for the smaller streams. The positioning and connectedness of the higher order streams (i.e., $\geq 3^{\text{rd}}$ order), was considered to be reliable enough for the current investigation and an improvement of previously available sparse streamline data for the Shire.</p> <p>Despite not being included in the draft WcHS, 1st and 2nd order watercourses are given the same level of protection under the Shire's LPS4.</p> <p>LiDAR was obtained by the Shire during the preparation of the draft WcHS to determine and classify watercourses. No new watercourses are proposed to be established as part of the WcHS.</p>
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	<p>effective flood protection and biodiversity functions. Waterway corridors are required to help ensure a resilient waterway system – both ecologically and socially – that can effectively absorb and/or recover from damaging processes without losing core functionality.</p> <p>Have waterway widths been sufficiently / properly reviewed? What about buffers? More community consultation is needed on this and on associated legislation. The minimum waterway corridor widths take into account the scale of vegetation required to provide robust and self-sustaining riparian vegetation communities over the long-term. Narrow waterway corridors tend to require higher levels of maintenance and plant replacement to prevent weed invasion, and do not provide the minimum spacing requirements for riparian trees (which are generally required components of healthy riparian vegetation communities), but are nevertheless important.</p>	<p>The WcHS concludes that the Shire’s existing statutory provisions are largely effective and require only minor refinements. These refinements will be considered as part of the minor review of Local Planning Scheme No.4.</p> <p>As outlined in the external consultation section of the Council report, the draft WcHS has been extensively advertised to various groups, government agencies etc. Further consultation is not considered necessary.</p>
<p>Submitter 26</p>	<p><u>Comments on the draft WcHS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Why is the Shire's Draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy subtitled 'Urban Plan / Design Development'? Would you please explain what is implied by 'Urban Plan'? The community to the best of my knowledge, has not been made aware of any plans for urbanization of Mundaring. . 2) Were the words 'Urban Plan / Design Development used in the initial advertising for submissions? 3) A community meeting at the Shire offices is necessary to explain this important, complex document before any decisions can be made. Why was this not done before the Strategy was drafted and released for comment? Will you please advise what can be done towards organizing such a meeting? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The title of the document is the Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy. Urban Plan is the name of the Consultancy who were appointed by the Shire to assist with preparing the draft WcHS. There is nothing in the document relating to the urbanisation of any area. 2) Reference was only made in the draft WcHS document being advertised. 3) As outlined in the external consultation section of the Council report, the draft WcHS has been extensively advertised to various groups, government agencies etc. <p>A workshop was held with Catchment Groups prior to the draft WcHS which took the groups through some of the recent science and policy in relation to such matters as erosion control,</p>

		<p>streamlining and riparian buffers. The Shire sought input on these matters and any other issues the groups believed should be taken into consideration during the preparation of the Strategy.</p> <p>As verbally advised by the Shire to the submitter prior to their submission being received, Shire Officers are available to assist with any queries they have about the draft WcHS.</p>
Submitter 27	Do not seek to make comment on the Draft WcHS.	Noted.

10.5 Corporate Business Project Report 1 July 2022 - 27 March 2023

File Code	OR.CMA 16
Author	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Senior Employee	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	1. Corporate Business Plan Report - 1 July 2022 to 27 March 2023 ↓

SUMMARY

Council adopted the Corporate Business Plan (CBP) for the period 2022/23 - 2025/26 on 27 July 2022. The CBP contains a range of strategic and planning priorities implemented on a yearly basis. The purpose of reporting is to provide an internal review and monitoring function that allows the Shire to respond to change through a systematic reporting process. Council receives quarterly reports about the implementation of these priorities.

The second report for this year covers the period 1 July 2022 to 27 March 2023, with the Corporate Business Plan Project Report (CBPR) reports on the status of each of these projects (**Attachment 1**).

As noted in the CBPR there are 21 projects identified:

- Six projects have rolled over from FY2021/22.
- Including the above, all projects have commenced.

It is recommended that Council notes the overall progress to date and endorses the proposed amended end dates of the following projects (noting the explanation for the changes is included in **Attachment 1**):

- Local Biodiversity Strategy - end date moved from March to April 2023;
- Economic Development and Tourism Strategy - end date moved from April to June 2023;
- Investment Property Strategy Review - end date moved from June to July 2023; and
- Implement Local Biodiversity Strategy Stage 1 - end date moved from April to June 2023.

BACKGROUND

Section 5.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) "Planning for the Future" requires a local government to plan for the future of the district and to make plans in accordance with the regulations. Regulations came into effect 1 July 2013 requiring all local governments to have developed and adopted a Strategic Community Plan (SCP) and a Corporate Business Plan supported and informed by resourcing and delivery strategies. These plans drive the development of each local government's annual budget and through a process of continuous improvement, local governments should be better able to plan for and meet the needs of their communities.

The reporting element is the process by which local government informs the community and statutory bodies on its progress in delivering services, projects and other operations to meet the community's short term, medium term and long-term aspirations.

Section 5.53 of the Act requires the annual report to contain an overview of the plan for the future of the district, including major initiatives that are proposed to commence or to continue in the next financial year.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 5.56 of the *Local Government Act 1995* requires a local government to plan for the future of its district in accordance with any regulations made.

Regulation 19DA of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* sets out the requirements for preparing, adopting, reviewing and modifying the Corporate Business Plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 4 - Governance

Objective 4.4 – High standard of governance and accountability

Strategy 4.4.5 – Continual improvement in the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) standard

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Reputational. The Shire does not complete projects contained in the Corporate Business Plan in the agreed timeframes.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Likely	Moderate	Moderate
Action / Strategy		
Provide regular updates to Council on progress towards achieving the Corporate Business Plan Activities and outline why and when some projects may be delayed.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

The CBPR report for FY2022/23 has 21 projects that are reported on regularly. Details are provided in **Attachment 1**. Their status is as follows:

Status	No.	Project Title
In Progress	15	Accelerating Emissions Reductions. Cycle Path Chidlow Town centre to Lake Leschenaultia. Delivery of CAPEX program to 65% - 85% completion. Development of the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. Develop Heritage Strategy. Develop Local Biodiversity Strategy. Develop Signage Strategy Implement Biodiversity Strategy Stage 1. Implement New Chart of Accounts. Investment Property Strategy Review. Mt. Helena Oval Change Rooms – Upgrade internals. Mundaring Multipurpose Community Facility Project Stage 2 Scott Street Bridge upgrade. Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy Works to achieve Disability Access Program.
Completed	5	Development of Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Disability Access and Inclusion Plan review. Policy Review. Verge Valet Feasibility Study WHS Legislation Implementation.
Deferred	1	Bilgoman Aquatic Centre – Change rooms upgrade.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION RECOMMENDATION	C10.04.23		
Moved by	Cr Cicchini	Seconded by	Cr Beale

That Council:

1. notes the overall progress to date detailed in the *Corporate Business Plan Project Report 1 July 2022 – 27 March 2023*, attached as **Attachment 1**; and
2. endorses the amended end dates of the following projects:
 - Local Biodiversity Strategy - end date moved from March to April 2023;
 - Economic Development and Tourism Strategy - end date moved from April to June 2023;
 - Investment Property Strategy Review - end date moved from June to July 2023; and
 - Implement Local Biodiversity Strategy Stage 1 - end date moved from April to June 2023.

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

CBP Report - 1 July 2022 to 27 March 2023

Project Name	Start date	End Date	% Complete	Status	Comments
Accelerating Emissions Reductions	1-Jul-2022	30-Jun-2025	23%	In Progress	Western Power quote for stage 1 of LED streetlight changeover (local roads) has been accepted and a Purchase Order issued following Council decision on 13 December 2022. Fleet data is being gathered to support a basic fleet transition plan to inform funding applications for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
Bilgoman Aquatic Centre - Change rooms upgrade	3-Oct-2022	31-Oct-2023	5%	Deferred	Council determined not to award a contract for this project (as only 1 quote was received which was 51% in excess of project estimate) and project has been postponed 12 months (C17.12.22)
Cycle Path Chidlow Townsite to Lake Leschenaultia	1-Jul-2022	30-Jun-2023	69%	In Progress	Works awarded and in progress.
Delivery of CAPEX program to 65% - 85% completion	1-Jul-2022	30-Jun-2023	33%	In Progress	Capital expenditure actual is 35% and 77% committed with orders (works in progress or about to start) as at 27 March
Develop Economic Development & Tourism Strategy	12-Apr-2021	13-Jun-2023	99%	In Progress	Strategy was originally scheduled to be endorsed at the April 23 OCM however more time was required to work with the consultant on extensive comments from the Stakeholder Reference Group and to conduct additional session with the group. As a result the project completion date has been revised from 11 April 2023 to 13 June 2023. Strategy to be endorsed at 13 June 23 OCM.
Develop Heritage Strategy	1-Dec-2022	12-Feb-2024	33%	In Progress	Consultant appointed with an inception meeting held in February. Consultants are undertaking background research before liaising with key stakeholders.
Develop Local Biodiversity Strategy	1-Aug-2019	11-Apr-2023	96%	In Progress	Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy was advertised for 60 days as per Council decision 08/11/2022, with an extension of time to provide for greater community input. The draft has been revised based on feedback and issues raised in submissions and was due to be reviewed by the Environmental Advisory Committee in March however the meeting scheduled the 27 March failed to achieve a quorum and therefore the Draft will go direct to Council for adoption at the 11 April Ordinary Council.
Develop Reconciliation Action Plan	6-Jan-2020	30-Dec-2022	100%	Complete	Reconciliation Australia officially accredited the Shire Innovate RAP 29 September 2022. The RAP was endorsed by Council 8 November 2022.
Develop Signage Strategy	7-Nov-2022	11-Jul-2023	34%	In Progress	Consultant appointed.
Disability Access and Inclusion Plan Review	4-Apr-2022	13-Dec-2022	100%	Complete	Council adopted the Access and Inclusion Informing Strategy at the Ordinary Council Meeting 13 December 2022.
Implement Biodiversity Strategy Stage 1	14-Nov-2022	30-Jun-2023	15%	In Progress	Action plan to be aligned to final draft of Local Biodiversity, informed by community submissions. Note change of end date from April to June 23 due to delay with adoption of Local Biodiversity Strategy.
Implement New Chart of Accounts	1-Oct-2022	30-Jun-2023	85%	In Progress	Project commenced in October. Initial workshops with Civica have commenced. Stakeholder engagement completed.
Investment Property Strategy Review	15-Aug-2022	12-Sep-2023	25%	In Progress	Due to workload from the EDTIS, this project is delayed from 30 Jun 23 to 12 Sep 23.
Mt. Helena Oval Change rooms - Upgrade internals	1-Jul-2022	30-Jun-2024	35%	In Progress	As per Council Decision C19.02.23, this project has been extended for up to a period of 12 months to allow for consultation to occur with the State Member for Swan Hills and key stakeholders.
Mundaring Multi-Purpose Facility	2-Jul-2018	30-Jun-2027	29%	In Progress	Council endorsed Engagement Strategy for Stage 2 (C3.02.23). Engagement and Concept Sketch/Masterplan consultant appointed.
Policy Review	1-Aug-2022	30-Nov-2023	100%	Complete	Review schedule adopted by Governance Committee 20 February 2023
Scott Street Bridge Upgrade	1-Jul-2019	28-Jun-2024	68%	In Progress	Major bridge works design completed. Works awarded. Works commenced on 27 February 2023.

Attachment 1 to Report 10.5

Project Name	Start date	End Date	% Complete	Status	Comments
Verge Valet Feasibility Study	1-Jul-2022	28-Feb-2023	100%	Complete	EMRC have undertaken a feasibility study and their report was presented at the February 2023 Forum. A further report will be presented to a future forum that examines all options in greater detail for possible implementation in 24/25.
Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy	1-Jul-2021	11-Apr-2023	99%	In Progress	The Draft Watercourse Hierarchy Strategy will be advised alongside the Draft Local Biodiversity Strategy, for 60 days as per Council decision 08/11/2022. Due date changed from 31 Mar 23 to 11 April 23 due delays in receiving submissions from key government agencies (e.g the DBCA and DFES) and the EAC meeting scheduled the 27 March failing to achieve a quorum and therefore items will go direct to Council for adoption at the 11 April Ordinary Council meeting.
WHS Legislation Implementation	1-Aug-2022	28-Feb-2023	100%	Complete	Council briefed and internal Audit and Gap Analysis presented to Audit and Risk Committee.
Works to achieve Disability Access Program	1-Jul-2022	30-Jun-2023	57%	In Progress	Accessibility audits undertaken. Council briefed on scope. Design work awarded and consultants commenced on 24 February 2023.

10.6 Delegations Register - 2023 Annual Review

File Code	GV.DGA 1.1
Author	Elizabeth Nicholls, Governance Co-ordinator
Senior Employee	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	1. Draft 2023 Delegations Register ↓ 2. Draft 2023 Delegations Register - with track changes ↓

SUMMARY

The annual review of the Delegations Register has been undertaken and is presented to Council for consideration and adoption (**Attachment 1**).

BACKGROUND

Delegations provide an appropriate level of authority to the CEO and committees to undertake effective and timely day to day statutory functions and to allow Council to focus on strategic planning and decision-making and community leadership. Effective delegations promote accountability and facilitate efficient service delivery to the community.

Sections 5.18 and 5.46 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) require that a Delegations Register be maintained and reviewed at least once each financial year.

A minor review has been completed this year with the draft amendments included as track changes (**Attachment 2**).

The Delegations Register was last reviewed by Council in May 2022. The last in-depth review was undertaken in April 2021.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 5.42 of the Act enables Council to delegate to the CEO the exercise of any of its powers or the discharge of any of its duties under the Act, subject to the limitations prescribed in section 5.43. In accordance with section 5.46 of the Act delegations are to be reviewed by the delegator at least once every financial year.

Section 5.16 of the Act provides for the delegation of some powers and duties to certain committees of Council, subject to the limitations prescribed in section 5.17.

Other legislation, such as the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, the *Food Act 2008*, the *Building Act 2011*, the *Dog Act 1976* and the *Cat Act 2011*, enables Council to delegate specific functions and duties to employees, usually through the CEO.

Sections 5.74 to 5.76 of the Act require an employee, to whom a duty or power has been delegated under the Act, to lodge an Annual Return by 31 August each year.

In addition to covering delegations, section 5.45 states that nothing prevents a local government from performing any of its functions by “acting through” a person other than the CEO, or a CEO performing any of his/her functions by acting through another person. The meaning of “acting through” is not defined in the Act, but it is generally accepted that where a person has no discretion in carrying out a function, that function can be undertaken by “acting through”.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A number of delegations are subject to compliance with Council’s policy on the matter. This is noted in the “compliance links” section of the delegation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 4 - Governance

Objective 4.4 – High standard of governance and accountability

Strategy 4.4.8 – Compliance with the Local Government Act 1995 and all relevant legislation and regulations

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

An appropriate framework of delegations:

- ensures accountability;
- assists in managing risk;
- increases efficiency and effectiveness of processes and practices;
- ensures decisions are implemented; and
- complies with relevant legislation, policies and guidelines.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Compliance: If delegations are not reviewed annually in accordance with legislation, there is a risk that they no longer comply with legislation and policies, or no longer reflect the needs of the organisation.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Unlikely	Minor	Low
Action / Strategy		
The annual review of delegations has been undertaken and is presented to Council for approval.		

Risk: Interruption to Service: If delegations are not in place, inefficiencies and delays in service delivery may result.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Minor	Moderate

Action / Strategy
The annual review of delegations provides an appropriate level of delegations.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

The Delegations Register has been reviewed by Officers. The proposed amendments to the Delegations Register are listed in the table below.

Delegation	Proposed amendment(s)
CE-117 Community Lease Agreements	Authority has previously been given to the CEO to renegotiate minor variations to clauses of existing lease agreements. A definition of 'minor variations' has been included for greater clarity.
CE-152 Commercial Lease Agreements	<p>Authority has previously been given to the CEO to enact potential landlord actions. A definition of 'landlords actions' has been included for greater clarity.</p> <p>Consistent with the inclusion for CE-117 community leases, authority has been given to the CEO to renegotiate minor variations to clauses of existing lease agreements. A definition of 'minor variations' has been included for greater clarity.</p> <p>An additional condition on the delegation has been added to provide a maximum term for a new lease negotiated with an existing tenant (ie 10 years including options).</p>
CE-153 Powers of Entry	Sub delegation updated to include Directors of the Managers who have the sub delegation.
CE-150 Performing Particular Things on Land which is not Local Government Property	Sub delegation updated to be consistent with inclusion for CE-153 Powers of Entry.
CE-151 Expressions of Interest and Tenders	<p>Council's conditions on the delegation to the CEO has been updated to provide clarity; specifically to the determination of selection criteria and the accepting or rejecting of tenders.</p> <p>The sub-delegation has been updated to include the Manager Operations, Manager Building Assets and the Manager Information Technology.</p> <p>The conditions on the CEO's sub-delegations provides for all the functions delegated to the Director Infrastructure Services and the Director Corporate Services. The conditions on the CEO's sub-delegations provides that the Manager Operations, Manager Building Assets and the Manager Information Technology are only able to determine the selection criteria. The 'tiers' within the sub-delegation provide for separation of duties whilst improving efficiency.</p>

	In the review undertaken in 2021, 'regular supply tenders' was removed and replaced with a list of services under 'Definition' with categories used to group the regular supply tenders added when the Delegations Register was reviewed in 2022. Further clarity has been provided on what constitutes a 'regular supply tender'.
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The adoption date for the reviewed Delegations Register will be added on the front page and footer of the document once resolved by Council.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority - *Local Government Act 1995* section 5.42

8.17pm, Cr Ellery left the meeting

COUNCIL DECISION		C11.04.23	
RECOMMENDATION			
Moved by	Cr Zlatnik	Seconded by	Cr Jeans

That Council adopts, by absolute majority and in accordance with section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, the reviewed Delegations Register for the year 2022/23.

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 8/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

Cr Ellery left the meeting prior to the recommendation being voted on and did not vote.

8.19pm, Cr Ellery returned to the meeting.



DELEGATIONS REGISTER 2023

Adopted Month Year

Review		
Reviewed by	Date approved	Council decision number
Council	26 February 2013	C16.02.13
Council	25 February 2014	C17.02.14
Council	10 February 2015	C5.02.15
Council	9 February 2016	C9.02.16
Council	11 April 2017	C9.04.17
Council	13 February 2018	C28.02.18
Council	12 February 2019	C24.02.19
Council	10 March 2020	C25.03.20
Council	13 April 2021	C9.04.21
Council	10 May 2022	C10.05.22



Introduction

The Delegations of Authority contained in this manual are made to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) and to Committees pursuant to section 5.16. Where listed some of these functions are delegated by the Chief Executive Officer to Shire of Mundaring employees pursuant to section 5.44 of the Act. All delegations made by Council must be by **absolute majority** decision.

The Act provides that the following are decisions that cannot be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer (s. 5.43):

- Any power or duty that requires a decision of an absolute majority or 75% majority of the local government.
- Accepting a tender which exceeds an amount determined by the local government.
- Appointing an auditor.
- Acquiring or disposing of any property valued at an amount exceeding the amount determined by the local government.
- Any of the local government's powers under sections 5.98, 5.98A, 5.99, 5.99A and 5.100 of the Act.
- Borrowing money on behalf of the local government.
- Hearing or determining an objection of a kind referred to in section 9.5.
- The power under section 9.49A(4) to authorise a person to sign documents on behalf of the local government.
- Any power or duty that requires the approval of the Minister or the Governor.
- Such other duties or powers as may be prescribed.

Furthermore the following regulations prescribe powers and duties which cannot be delegated to a CEO:

- Regulation 18G of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* prohibits the delegation to a CEO of the powers and duties under:
 - (i) Sections 7.12A(2), 7.12A(3)(a) and 7.12A(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (relating to meetings with auditors); and
 - (ii) Regulations 18C and 18D (relating to the selection and appointment of CEOs and reviews of their performance).
- Regulation 6 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* prohibits the delegation of the duty to conduct an internal audit to an employee (including a CEO) who has been delegated the duty of maintaining the local government's day to day accounts or financial management operations.

The Act allows for the Chief Executive Officer to delegate any of their powers to another employee, this must be done in writing. These powers cannot, however, be further sub-delegated (s. 5.44). The Act also allows the delegator to place conditions on any delegations if required.

A register of delegations, being this manual, is to be kept and reviewed at least once every financial year.

If a person is exercising a power or duty that they have been delegated, the Act requires them to keep records relating to the exercise of the power or discharge of the duty. The written record is to contain:

- How and when the person exercised the power or discharged the duty; and



- The persons or classes of persons, other than council or committee members or employees of the local government, directly affected by the exercise of the power or the discharge of the duty.

Each instrument of delegation in this register describes the function being delegated and the relevant statutory reference which is the source of power for the exercise of the function. Also included is a reference to related documents such as policies of Council, which may provide guidance in the exercise of the delegation.

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Corporate Services

CE-1 Payments from Trust and Municipal Fund	
Date of adoption	22 July 1997
Function delegated	That Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of its power to make payments from the Trust Fund or Municipal Fund (this includes Reserves and Restricted Assets).
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> r. 12(1)(a) Payments from municipal fund or trust fund
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> r. 5 Financial management duties of the CEO r. 11 Payment of accounts r. 13 Lists of accounts Organisational Practice: OP-58 Corporate Purchasing Card Procedure: Admin-29 Issue and Use of Corporate Purchasing Cards
Conditions	Nil



CE-2 Investments	
Date of adoption	23 July 1996
Function delegated	That the Chief Executive Officer be delegated authority to invest money held in the municipal or trust fund that is not for the time being required for any other purpose with financial institutions approved by Council.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 6.14 Power to invest <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> r. 19 Management of investments
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Corporate Services Manager Finance and Governance
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 6.14(2)(a) Comply with regulations <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> r.19C Investment of money <i>Trustees Act 1962 Part III Investments</i> Policy: FI-02 Investments Procedure: Admin-28 Investments
Conditions	Nil



CE-74 Appointment of Authorised Persons	
Date of adoption	25 February 2014
Function delegated	Authority to appoint persons or classes of persons as authorised persons for the purpose of fulfilling prescribed functions within: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>; 2. the <i>Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995</i>; 3. the <i>Cat Act 2011</i>; 4. the <i>Cemeteries Act 1986</i>; 5. the <i>Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978</i>; 6. the <i>Dog Act 1976</i>; 7. subsidiary legislation made under the above Acts; and 8. the Shire's Local Laws made under those Acts.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.24 Authorising persons under this subdivision s. 9.10 Appointment of authorised persons
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> : 1. r. 32A Excluded authorisations (Act s.9.2)
Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The CEO may, at his discretion, refer any matter to Council for decision; and 2. Details of any prosecutions under a Local Law must be provided to Council.

CE-117 Community Lease Agreements	
Date of adoption	25 February 2014
Function delegated	<p>Authority to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renew existing lease agreements with charitable, benevolent, religious, cultural, educational, recreational, sporting, environmental or other similar groups or government agencies for properties that are owned or under the care, control and management of the Shire of Mundaring; and 2. Negotiate new lease agreements with existing lessees whose lease has expired. 3. Renegotiate minor variations* to clauses of existing lease agreements. <p>* see definition below.</p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.58 Disposing of property
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> r. 30 Dispositions of property excluded from Act s. 3.58
Conditions	Delegated decision making must take into consideration Policy OR-24 "Community Leases".
Definition	<p>Minor variations includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of group name • Change of control • Change to timeframes (excluding legislated requirements).

CE-119 Appointment of Acting CEO	
Date of adoption	22 May 2007
Function delegated	Authority to appoint an Acting Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Council policy AS-03 "Acting Chief Executive Officer" and for a period not exceeding three months.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> 5.36(1)(a) Local government employees
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> – r. 18A(1)(b) – acting term not to exceed one year. Policy AS-03 "Acting Chief Executive Officer"
Conditions	Appointment to be made in accordance with Policy AS-03 "Acting Chief Executive Officer"



CE-125 Write Off Debt	
Date of adoption	22 July 2008
Function delegated	Authority to defer, waive, grant concession and conditions or write off any amount of money under section 6.12 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). <i>Note that s. 6.12(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 does not allow money owed to the Shire in respect of rates and service charges to be waived or for a concession in relation to such money to be granted.</i>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 6.12 Power to defer, grant discounts, waive or write off debts
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Corporate Services Manager Finance and Governance
CEO's conditions on sub-delegation	Director Corporate Services and Manager Finance and Governance are sub-delegated only to write off individual rate balances, which relate to penalty interest only, up to \$10 for administrative purposes.
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 6.12 Power to defer, grant discounts, waive or write off debts
Conditions	Nil



CE-152 Commercial Lease Agreements	
Date of adoption	13 April 2021
Function delegated	<p>Authority to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extend existing lease agreements with commercial tenants in accordance with the extension options provided for in the lease; 2. Renegotiate minor variations* to clauses of existing lease agreements; 3. Enact potential landlord actions*; 4. Negotiate a new lease with existing commercial tenants. <p>* see definitions below.</p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995 s. 3.58</i>
Statutory power of delegation	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO</p>
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Council's conditions on delegation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In accordance with s. 5.43 of the Act the maximum value of disposal by commercial lease is \$5,000,000 over the full term of any lease. 2. Any re-negotiated rent cannot be less than 90% of the previous rent. 3. A new lease negotiated with an existing tenant is limited to a maximum of a 10 year term including options.
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	n/a
CEO's conditions on sub-delegation	n/a
Compliance links	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995 s. 3.58.</i> Council's adopted Investment Property Strategy.</p>
Definition	<p>Minor variations includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of business name • Change of control • Change to timeframes (excluding legislated requirements). <p>Landlord actions includes but is not limited to:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• approve assignment• issue notices• approve dealings on the land and sub leases• approve actions with lease financiers (when required)
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CE-153 Powers of Entry	
Date of adoption	14 October 2014
Function delegated	Authority to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter on to land to perform any function of the local government under Schedules 3.1 and 3.2 of the Act; 2. Give a notice of entry (s. 3.32); 3. Seek and execute an entry under warrant (s. 3.33); 4. Execute entry in an emergency (s. 3.34) 5. Give notice and effect entry by opening a fence (s. 3.36).
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.32 Notice of entry s. 3.33 Entry under warrant s. 3.34 Entry in an emergency s. 3.36 Opening fences
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Directory Statutory Services Director Infrastructure Services Manager Planning & Environment Manager Building & Health Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Operations
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Part 3 Division 3 Subdivision 3, and specifically s. 3.31 General procedure for entering property
Conditions	Nil



Infrastructure Services

CE-150 Performing Particular Things on Land which is not Local Government Property	
Date of adoption	28 January 2014
Function delegated	<p>The Chief Executive Officer is delegated the power to carry out things prescribed in Schedule 3.2 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> even though the land is not local government property and the local government does not have consent to do it, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out works for the drainage of land; 2. Do earthworks or other works on land for preventing or reducing flooding; 3. Take from land any native growing or dead timber, earth, stone, sand or gravel that, in its opinion, the local government requires for making or repairing a thoroughfare, bridge, culvert, fence or gate; 4. Deposit and leave on land adjoining a thoroughfare any timber, earth, stone, sand, gravel, and other material that persons engaged in making or repairing a thoroughfare, bridge, culvert, fence or gate do not, in the opinion of the local government, require; 5. Make a temporary thoroughfare through land for use by the public as a detour while work is being done on a public thoroughfare; 6. Place on land signs to indicate the names of public thoroughfares; 7. Make safe a tree that presents serious and immediate danger, without having to give the owner the notice otherwise required by regulations.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.27 Particular things local governments can do on land that is not local government property
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>



	s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Statutory Services Director Infrastructure Services Manager Planning & Environment Manager Building & Health Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Operations
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Schedule 3.2 Particular things local governments can do on land even though it is not local government property
Conditions	Nil

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CE-151 Expressions of Interest and Tenders	
Date of adoption	25 February 2014
Function delegated	<p>Authority to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. invite tenders though not required to do so [F&G Reg. 13]; 2. determine the selection criteria for deciding which tender should be accepted [F&G Reg. 14(2a)]; 3. determine the information to be disclosed to those interested in submitting a tender [F&G Reg. 14(4)(a)]; 4. vary tender information after public notice of invitation to tender and before the close of tenders [F&G Reg. 14(5)]; 5. accept or reject tenders [F&G Reg. 18]; 6. accept the next most advantageous tender where within 6 months of accepting a tender a contract has not been entered into, or the successful tenderer agrees to terminate the contract [F&G Reg. 18 (6) and (7)]; 7. determine minor variations before entering into a contract [F&G Reg. 20]; 8. vary a contract that has been entered into with a successful tenderer, provided the variation(s) do not change the scope of the original contract or increase the contract value beyond 10% [F&G Reg. 21A(a)]; 9. exercise an extension option that was included in the original tender specification and contract in accordance with F&G Reg. 11(2)(j) [F&G Reg. 21A(b)]; 10. determine appropriate circumstances for seeking and inviting expressions of interest for the supply of goods or services [F&G Reg. 21]; 11. consider expressions of interest which have not been rejected and determine those which are capable of satisfactorily providing the goods or services, for listing as acceptable tenderers [F&G Reg. 23]. <p>Authority to establish a panel of pre-qualified suppliers to supply particular goods or services in accordance with Part 4 Division 3 of the F&G Regulations.</p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>



	<p>s. 3.57 Tenders for providing goods and services</p> <p><i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i></p> <p>r. 11 When tenders have to be publicly invited</p> <p>r. 13 Requirements when local government invites tenders though not required to do so</p> <p>r. 14(2a) and (5) Publicly inviting tenders, requirements for</p> <p>r. 18 Rejecting and accepting tenders</p> <p>r. 20 Variation of requirements before entry into contract</p> <p>r. 21A Varying a contract for the supply of goods and services</p> <p>r. 21 Limiting who can tender, procedure for</p> <p>r. 23 Rejecting and accepting expressions of interest to be acceptable tendered</p> <p>Division 3 Establish panels of pre-qualified suppliers</p>
Statutory power of delegation	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995</i></p> <p>s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO</p> <p>s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO</p>
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Council's conditions on delegation	<p>Delegation to CEO:</p> <p>Selection Criteria [F&G Reg. 14(2a)];</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selection criteria must be stated in the Request for Tender document and comply with the requirements of the regulations. 2. Where the selection criteria has been determined by the CEO, Council is to accept or reject the tender. <p>Accepting or Rejecting Tenders [F&G Reg. 18]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Regular supply tenders* and tenders for plant and vehicles: may accept the most advantageous tender for all items identified in the adopted Annual Budget; 4. Other tenders: may only accept a tender where the consideration under the resulting contract is \$375,000 (excluding GST) or less and the item is identified in the adopted Annual Budget. <p>* see definition below.</p>
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995</i></p> <p>s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees</p>
CEO's sub-delegation to	<p>Director Infrastructure Services (DIS)</p> <p>Director Corporate Services (DCS)</p>



	<p>Manager of Operations Manager of Building Assets Manager of Information Technology</p>
<p>CEO's conditions on sub-delegation</p>	<p>Sub-delegation to DIS and DCS includes all function delegated to the CEO.</p> <p>Conditions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tender must be relevant to DIS's or DCS's area of responsibility. <p>Selection Criteria [F&G Reg. 14(2a)];</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Selection criteria must be stated in the Request for Tender document and comply with the requirements of the regulations. 3. Where the selection criteria has been determined by DIS or DCS, the CEO is to accept or reject the tender. <p>Accepting or Rejecting Tenders [F&G Reg. 18]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Regular supply tenders* and tenders for plant and vehicles: may accept the most advantageous tender for all items identified in the adopted Annual Budget; 5. Other tenders: may only accept a tender where the consideration under the resulting contract is \$250,000 (excluding GST) or less and the item is identified in the adopted Annual Budget. 6. Selection criteria must be recorded in the appropriate record and comply with the requirements of the regulations. Where the selection criteria has been approved by DIS or DCS, the CEO is to accept or reject the tender. <p>* see definition below.</p> <p>Sub-delegation to Manager of Operations, Manager of Building Assets or Manager of Information Technology limited to:</p> <p>Selection Criteria [F&G Reg. 14(2a)];</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tender must be relevant to Manager of Operations, Manager of Building Assets or Manager of Information Technology area of responsibility. 2. Selection criteria must be stated in the Request for Tender document and comply with the requirements of the regulations. 3. Where the selection criteria has been approved by Manager of Operations, Manager of Building Assets or Manager of Information



	Technology, DIS, DCS or the CEO is to accept or reject the tender.
Compliance links	<p><i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996 – Part 4 Division 2</i></p> <p><i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> r. 31 Anti-avoidance provision for Act s. 3.58</p> <p>Policy AS-04 Purchasing Policy Procedure Admin-30 Ordering and Payment of Goods and Services Procedure Admin-31 Quotations for Purchase of Goods and Services</p>
Definition	<p>* Regular supply tenders means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and Recycling Services • Utilities – Energy, Gas and Water • Civil Engineering and Construction Services • Cleaning and Building Maintenance Services • Surveyor Services • Infrastructure Design and Investigation Services • Parks and Horticultural Services • Telecommunications • Information Technology Services • Recruitment Services



CE-154 <i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i>	
Date of adoption	13 April 2021
Function delegated	All powers, duties and functions of a local government under the <i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> .
Statutory power delegated	All powers, duties and functions of a local government under the <i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> .
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> s. 16 – delegation by local government
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> s. 17 – delegation by CEO of local government
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Infrastructure Services
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Part 9 – Divisions 1 and 2
Conditions	Nil



Statutory Services

CE-14	Noise Control – Environmental Protection Notice [s. 65(1)]
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986 Section 20	
DELEGATION No. 52	
Pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , the Chief Executive Officer hereby delegates as follows—	
Powers and duties delegated—	
All the powers and duties of the Chief Executive Officer, where any noise is being or is likely to be emitted from any premises not being premises licensed under the Act, to serve an environmental protection notice under section 65(1) in respect of those premises, and where an environmental protection notice is so served in such a case, all the powers and duties of the Chief Executive Officer under Part V of the Act in respect of that environmental protection notice.	
Persons to whom delegation made—	
This delegation is made to any person for the time being holding or acting in the office of Chief Executive Officer under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .	
Pursuant to section 59(1)(e) of the <i>Interpretations Act 1984</i> , Delegation No. 32, dated 4 February 2000 is hereby revoked.	
Dated this 9 th day of January 2004.	
Approved—	
FERDINAND TROMP, A/Chief Executive Officer. Dr JUDY EDWARDS MLA, Minister for the Environment.	
Government Gazette 19 March 2004 – page 919.	



CE-15	Noise Control - Noise Management Plans [Reg. 13]
EV401*	<p style="text-align: center;">ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DELEGATION NO. 119</p> <p>I, Jason Banks, in my capacity as Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (“the Act”), and pursuant to section 20 of the Act, hereby delegate to the holder for the time being of the offices of —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Chief Executive Officer under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>; and(b) to any employee of a local government under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> who is appointed as an Authorised Person under section 87 of the Act, <p>all my powers and duties in relation to noise management plans under regulation 13 of the <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> other than this power of delegation.</p> <p>Under section 59(1)(e) of the <i>Interpretation Act 1984</i>, Delegation No. 111, gazetted 20 December 2013, is hereby revoked.</p> <p>Dated the 1st day of May 2014.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JASON BANKS, Acting Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>Approved by — Hon ALBERT JACOBS JP MLA, Minister for Environment: Heritage.</p>



CE-16 Noise Control - Noise Regulations

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986

DELEGATION NO. 112

I, Jason Banks, in my capacity as Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment Regulation responsible for the administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* ("the Act"), and pursuant to section 20 of the Act, hereby delegate to any person for the time being holding or acting in the office of a Chief Executive Officer under the *Local Government Act 1995*, my powers and duties under the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*, other than this power of delegation, in relation to —

- (a) waste collection and other works—noise management plans relating to specified works under regulation 14A or 14B;
- (b) bellringing or amplified calls to worship—the keeping of a log of bellringing or amplified calls to worship requested under regulation 15(3)(c)(vi);
- (c) community activities—noise control notices in respect of community noise under regulation 16;
- (d) motor sport venues—noise management plans in relation to motor sport venues under Part 2 Division 3;
- (e) shooting venues—noise management plans in relation to shooting venues under Part 2 Division 4;
- (f) calibration results—requesting, under regulation 23(b), details of calibration results undertaken and obtained under Schedule 4;
- (g) sporting, cultural and entertainment events—approval of events or venues for sporting, cultural and entertainment purposes under Part 2 Division 7, subject to the following limitation—
 - (i) Subregulation 18(13)(b) is not delegated.

Under section 59(1)(e) of the *Interpretation Act 1984*, Delegation No. 68, gazetted 22 June 2007 is hereby revoked.

Dated the 12th day of December 2013.

JASON BANKS, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Approved by –

JOHN DAY, Acting Minister for Environment; Heritage.

Government Gazette 20 December 2013 - page 6282.



CE-84 Local Planning Scheme No. 4	
Date of adoption	13 April 2021
Function delegated	Authority to exercise all powers and discharge all duties under: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Deemed Provisions (Schedule 2) of the <i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015</i> and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (LPS4); 2. Clause 30 and clause 31 of the Metropolitan Region Scheme (WAPC reference: DEL 2017/02); 3. <i>State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004</i> section 31.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015</i> – Schedule 2 Deemed Provisions for local planning schemes; and Local Planning Scheme No. 4.
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 – Schedule 2 Deemed Provisions for local planning schemes</i> - regulation 82. Shire of Mundaring Local Planning Scheme No. 4 Clause 11.3.1.
Delegator	Council
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Council's conditions on delegation	Delegated employees - <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. cannot: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prepare, amend or revoke Local Planning Policies (cl. 3 – 6 Deemed Provisions and Part 2 of LPS4), unless the amendment is of an administrative nature only; 2. cannot determine applications involving: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. the demolition of a building or structure listed on the Shire's Heritage List or on the State Register of Heritage Places (as amended); 3. Extractive Industry uses; 4. telecommunications infrastructure unless the proposal is a minor addition to an existing telecommunications installation;



	<p>5. applications that propose an extension or expansion to a non-conforming use;</p> <p>6. modifications to an existing approval issued by Council that would be inconsistent with the intent of Council's original decision;</p> <p>7. provide formal referral responses to the Western Australian Planning Commission for proposed Structure Plans involving 35 or more lots;</p> <p>8. a request from the State Administrative Tribunal for reconsideration of a Council decision under section 31 of the <i>State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004</i>;</p> <p>9. an application where an objection/s received during the advertising period, in the opinion of the Manager of Planning and Environment, remains relevant and may not be satisfactorily resolved by modifications or conditions.</p> <p>3. can refuse applications, where:</p> <p>a) an 'X' use is proposed;</p> <p>b) a habitable building is proposed with an unacceptable exposure to bushfire risk (either Bushfire Attack Level 40 or Flamezone) where, in the opinion of the Manager of Planning and Environment, alternative and safer siting and design options exist;</p> <p>c) clearing of Local Natural Area identified as 'Protection' category is proposed and where, in the opinion of the Manager of Planning and Environment, it has not been sufficiently demonstrated that all alternative locations on the lot outside of any Local Natural Area are unviable, impractical or environmentally unsuitable;</p> <p>d) an oversized outbuilding where individual and/or total area is exceeded;</p> <p>e) third party advertising is proposed.</p> <p>Decisions under delegated authority cannot be made unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all councillors are notified of any proposals involving an 'A' use;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all councillors are informed of any 'Complex Development Applications' as defined within the <i>Shire's Advertising Planning Proposals Local Planning Policy PS-01</i>; <p>Decisions made under delegated authority must be reported to elected members on a monthly basis.</p>
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<p><i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 – Schedule 2 Deemed Provisions for local planning schemes - regulation 83.</i></p> <p>Shire of Mundaring Local Planning Scheme No. 4 Clause 11.3.2.</p>
CEO's sub-delegation to	<p>Director Statutory Services Manager Planning & Environment Coordinator Statutory Planning Coordinator Strategic Planning Planning Officer Planning Compliance Officer</p>
CEO's conditions on sub-delegation	<p>Council's conditions on delegation to the CEO, as above, apply.</p>
Compliance links	<p>All delegated planning decisions must be consistent with the intent of Council's adopted Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme and applicable Local Planning Policies.</p>



CE-137 <i>Planning and Development Act 2005 – Illegal Development and Direction Notices</i>	
Date of adoption	13 April 2021
Function delegated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a written direction or any other person undertaking an unauthorised development to stop, and not recommence, the development or that part of the development that is undertaken in contravention of the planning scheme, interim development order or planning control area requirements; • Give a written direction to the owner or any other person who undertook an unauthorised development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to remove, pull down, take up or alter the development; and b) to restore the land as nearly as practicable to its condition immediately before the development started, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. • Give a written direction to the person whose duty it is to execute work, to execute that work where it appears that delay in the execution of the work to be executed under a planning scheme or interim development order would prejudice the effective operation of the planning scheme or interim development order.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i> Section 214(2), (3) and (5)
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Section 5.42 – Delegation of some powers and duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Council's conditions on delegation	Any expenses incurred by the Shire in carrying out the works specified in a direction notice, shall be recovered from the person to whom the direction was given.
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Section 5.44 – CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Statutory Services Manager Planning and Environment
CEO's conditions on sub-delegation	Any expenses incurred by the Shire in carrying out the works specified in a direction notice, shall be recovered from the person to whom the direction was given.



Compliance links	Part 13 of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i>
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CE-155	Delegation of certain powers and functions of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) relating to the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS)
DEL 2017/02	
As gazetted on 30 May 2017 and as amended. Current as at January 2021.	
<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2005</p> <p>INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION</p> <p>Del 2017/02 Powers of Local Governments and Department of Transport Metropolitan Region Scheme</p> <p>Delegation of certain powers and functions of the Western Australian Planning Commission relating to the Metropolitan Region Scheme</p>	
Preamble	
<p>Under section 16 of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i> (the Act) the Western Australian Planning Commission (the WAPC) may, by resolution published in the <i>Government Gazette</i>, delegate any function to an officer of a public authority or to a local government, a committee established under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> or an employee of a local government.</p> <p>In accordance with section 16(4) of the Act, a reference in this instrument to a function or a power of the WAPC includes and extends to, without limitation or restriction, any of the powers, privileges, authorities, discretions, duties and responsibilities vested in or conferred upon the WAPC by the Act or any other written law as the case requires.</p>	
Resolution under section 16 of the Act (delegation)	
On 24 May 2017, pursuant to section 16 of the Act, the WAPC resolved –	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To delegate to local governments, and to members and officers of those local governments, its functions in respect of the determination, in accordance with Part IV of the Metropolitan Region Scheme, of applications for approval to commence and carry out development specified in clauses 1 and 2 of Section A, within their respective districts, subject to the conditions set out in clauses 1 to 4 of Section B. 2. To delegate to the Managing Director, Policy, Planning and Investment – Transport, of the Department of Transport, and the person or persons from time to time holding or acting in that office, its functions in respect of the determination, in accordance with Part IV of the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), of applications for approval to commence and carry out development specified in clause 3, Section A, subject to the conditions set out in clause 5 of Section B. 3. To revoke its delegation of powers and functions to local governments and the Department of Transport as detailed in the notice entitled “DEL 2015/02 Powers of local governments and Department of Transport (MRS)” published in the <i>Government Gazette</i> on 18 December 2015, to give effect to this delegation. 	



KERRINE BLENKINSOP, Secretary,
Western Australian Planning Commission.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2005

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

SECTION A – Types of Development

1. Development on zoned land

Applications for development on land zoned under the MRS except –

- a) where the land is subject to a resolution under clause 32 of the MRS; or
- b) where the land is subject to the declaration of a planning control area under Section 112 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*; or
- c) where that land is partly within the development control area described in section 10 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* or is outside the development control area but abuts waters within the development control area; or
- d) where the local government is of the opinion that the application should be determined by the WAPC on the grounds that the proposal is of State or regional importance or is in the public interest; or
- e) in respect of public works undertaken by public authorities.

2. Development on regional road reservations

Applications for developments on or abutting land that is reserved in the MRS for the purpose of a regional road.

SECTION B – Conditions

1. Referral requirements for development on land within or abutting a regional road reservation

The following applications for development on land that abuts or is fully or partly reserved as regional road reservation (classified as Category 1, 2 and 3) shall be referred to Main Roads WA (MRWA) or the Department of Planning (DoP) as applicable, for transport planning related comments and recommendations before being determined by the local government subject to the process explained in clause 4, Section B.

Type of regional road reservation in the MRS	Classification on plans SP 693 (PRR) and SP 694 (ORR)	Referral Agency
Primary Regional Road (PRR)	Category 1, 2 and 3	Main Roads WA
Other Regional Road (ORR)	Category 1, 2 and 3	Department of Planning

The regional road network (PRR and ORR) changes periodically with amendments to the MRS. This clause relates to all regional road reservations in the MRS as amended from time to time. Regional roads subject to this notice and the relevant



agency that is responsible for their planning are shown on accompanying editions of plans SP 693 (PRR, MRWA) and SP 694 (ORR, WAPC).

The road categories shown on plans SP 693 (PRR) and SP 694 (ORR) classify the regional roads based on –

- a) the permissible vehicular access arrangements to the subject land via the regional road frontage
 - **Category 1 road** means that frontage access is not allowed (control of access);
 - **Category 2 road** means that frontage access may be allowed subject to approval; and
- b) the legibility and statutory powers of current road land requirements defined for the purpose of regional road reservation in the MRS
 - **Category 3 road** means that the subject regional road reservation is not accurately defined or is subject to a review by the agency that is responsible for planning of the regional road.

“Category 1 road” applies where regional roads –

- a) are constructed or planned to a fully controlled and grade separated freeway standard; or
- b) are constructed or planned to an access controlled arterial standard, i.e. functioning as Primary Distributor or Integrator Arterial (District Distributor) road with widely spaced signalised intersections or roundabouts, and a few, if any, direct access points to individual sites or local streets.

“Category 2 road” applies where regional roads –

- a) are constructed or planned to a partially access controlled arterial standard, (i.e. a primary or district distributor road with direct connections to local streets and driveways to larger sites, but with some restriction of direct frontage access to individual properties); or
- b) have direct frontage access to abutting properties due to historic development of the road and properties.

“Category 3 road” applies where regional road reservation is not accurately defined or is under review.

For enquiries and assistance regarding –

- a) PRR Category 1, 2 and 3 – call Main Roads WA on 138 138.
- b) ORR Category 1, 2 and 3 – call Department of Planning on (08) 6551 9000.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 below outline the category of the regional road reservation and the criteria for referring development applications to agencies in accordance with this instrument of delegation.

Table 1 – Referral process of development applications with respect to Category 1 (PRR or ORR reservations in the MRS)

Respective referral agency (as per Section B)	
Referral is required in these instances	Referral is not required in these instances
1. Where a development application has one or more of the following characteristics – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development, including earthworks and drainage, which encroaches or impacts upon the road reservation; or b) Development with potential for a significant increase in traffic using any access, either directly or indirectly, onto the road reservation; or c) Development, which involves direct vehicle access to and/or from the regional road reservation. 	1. Where the local government first decided to refuse the application under the MRS; or 2. Under circumstances where the application is for an ancillary and incidental addition or modification to an existing authorised development, which does not encroach upon the road reservation and has no intention to alter existing access arrangements.

Table 2 – Referral process of development applications with respect to Category 2 (PRR or ORR reservations in the MRS)

Respective referral agency (as per Section B)	
Referral is required in these instances	Referral is not required in these instances
1. Where a development application has one or more of the following characteristics – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development, including earthworks and drainage, which encroaches or impacts upon the road reservation; or b) Development with potential for a significant increase in traffic using any access, either directly or indirectly, onto the road reservation; or c) Development, which involves the retention of more than one existing access; or additional, relocated or new access between the subject land and the road reservation; or 	1. Where the local government first decided to refuse the application under the MRS; or 2. Under circumstances where the application is for an ancillary and incidental addition or modification to an existing authorised development, which does not encroach upon the road reservation and has no intention to alter existing access arrangements.



<p>d) Development, which proposed retention of an existing access between the subject land and the road reservation, where alternative access is or could be made available from side or rear streets or from rights of way at rear; or</p> <p>e) Development on a lot affected by the regional road reservation where –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all or part of the proposed development is within the regional road reservation; and • has a construction value greater than \$20 000; or <p>f) Development on a lot affected by the regional road reservation where –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none of the proposed development is within the road reservation; and • has a construction value greater than \$150 000. 	
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Table 3 – Referral process of development applications with respect to Category 3 (PRR or ORR reservation in the MRS)

Respective referral agency (as per Section B)	
Referral is required in these instances	Referral is not required in these instances
9. All development applications, other than those where local government first decides to refuse it.	2. Where the local government first decides to refuse the application under the MRS.

Notes –

- 1) Copies of plans SP 693 (PRR) and SP 694 (ORR) are available from the WAPC's website: "Resolutions and instruments of delegation – WAPC Powers of local governments (MRS)". (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/1212.asp>)
- 2) In determining applications under this delegation, local governments shall have due regard to relevant WAPC and MRWA policy and guidelines, including but not limited to the Commission's DC Policy – *5.1 Regional Roads (Vehicular Access)*, the Transport Impact Assessment Guidelines, and MRWA *Driveways Policy*, which set out the principles and requirements to be applied when considering proposals for vehicle access to or from developments abutting certain categories of regional roads. (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/812.asp>; and



<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/BuildingRoads/StandardsTechnical/RoadandTrafficEngineering/GuidetoRoadDesign/Pages/Driveways.aspx>)

- 3) Local governments shall ensure that sufficient transport information accompanies the development application to assist the referral agency in assessing the transport implications of the proposal. This information should be provided in accordance with the WAPC's *Transport Impact Assessment Guidelines*. <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/1197.asp>.
- 4) With regard to proposals for new noise-sensitive developments, the local government shall have due regard to the provisions of the Commission's *State Planning Policy – 5.4 Road and Rail Transport Noise and Freight Considerations in Land Use Planning*. (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/1182.asp>)
- 5) With regard to development application for the display of advertisements on land reserved under the MRS local government should have regard to the Commission's *DC Policy 5.4 Advertising on Reserved Land*. (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/825.asp>)

1. Referral requirements for development on land abutting the Swan River Trust Development Control Area

Applications for development on land that is outside the development control area but abutting land that is in the development control area, or which in the opinion of the local government are likely to affect waters in the development control area, shall be referred to the Swan River Trust for comment and recommendation before being determined by the local government.

2. Referral requirements for development on land abutting other reservations

Applications for development on land abutting land reserved in the MRS for purposes other than regional roads or Parks and Recreation (where the reservation corresponds with the Swan River Trust development control area and is covered by Clause 2, Section B of this notice) shall be referred to the public authority responsible for that reserved land for comment and recommendation before being determined by the local government.

In the case of land reserved for the purpose of Parks and Recreation, which is not vested or owned by another public authority, the applications shall be referred to the Department of Planning before being determined by the local government.

3. For the purpose of this Instrument of Delegation

1. Where an application is referred by the local government to a public authority for comment and recommendation, the public authority shall provide comment and recommendation, if any, within 30 days of receipt of the application. If no comment or recommendation is received within that 30 day period the local government may determine the application on the available information.
2. Where the recommendation provided by the public authority specified in the delegation notice is not acceptable to the local government the application, together with the recommendations provided by all public authorities consulted and the reasons why the recommendation is not acceptable to



the local government, shall be referred immediately to the WAPC for determination.

3. The powers delegated to a member or officer of a local government may only be exercised by a member or officer who has been delegated power from the local government to consider and determine applications for approval to commence and carry out development within the local government district under the local government's local planning scheme.

Interpretation

In this Instrument of Delegation, unless the context otherwise requires –

- A reference to a 'position' or 'classification' contemplates and includes a reference to its successor in title.
- "access" means both entry and exit from either a road or abutting development by a vehicle.
- "Commission" or "WAPC" means the "Western Australian Planning Commission".
- "development" has the same meaning given to it in and for the purposes of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* or "*development means the development or use of any land including –*
 1. *any demolition, erection, construction, alteration of or addition to any building or structure on the land;*
 2. *the carrying out on the land of any excavation or other works;*
 3. *in the case of a place to which a Conservation Order made under section 59 of the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 applies, any act or thing that –*
 - i. *is likely to change the character of that place or the external appearance of any building; or*
 - ii. *would constitute an irreversible alteration of the fabric of any building".*
- "DoT" means the Department of Transport.
- "local road" means a public road other than a private road or a road subject of reservation under Part II of the MRS.
- "not acceptable" means that the local government wishes to determine the application, as a delegate of the WAPC, in a manner that is inconsistent with the recommendation received from the public agency to which the local government was required to consult under this Notice of Delegation.
- Main Roads WA means Main Roads Western Australia.
- "regional road" means any road under the region Scheme as follows –
 - a) land coloured red in the Scheme Map – Primary Regional Roads; and
 - b) land coloured dark blue in the Scheme Map – Other Regional Roads.
- "reserved land" means land reserved under Part II of the MRS.
- "road reservation" means land reserved for the purposes of a regional road in the MRS.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “significant increase in traffic” means generating more than 100 vehicle trips in the peak hour and would therefore require a transport assessment to accompany the development application. Refer to the Commission’s <i>Transport Impact Assessment Guidelines</i>. 	
Delegator	Council
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
CEO’s sub-delegation to	Director Statutory Services Manager Planning & Environment

DRAFT



CE-156 Delegation of certain powers and functions of the Western Australian Planning Commission relating to the *Strata Titles Act 1985*

DEL 2020/01

As gazetted on 29 January 2021 and as amended.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2005

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

Del 2020/01 Powers of Local Governments

Delegation to local governments of certain powers and functions of the Western Australian Planning Commission relating to certain applications under the *Strata Titles Act 1985*.

Preamble

Under section 16 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* (the Act) the Western Australian Planning Commission (the WAPC) may, by resolution published in the *Government Gazette*, delegate any function under the Act or any other written law to a local government, a committee established under the *Local Government Act 1995* or an employee of a local government.

In accordance with section 16(4) of the Act, a reference in this instrument to a function or a power of the WAPC includes and extends to, without limitation or restriction, any of the powers, privileges, authorities, discretions, duties and responsibilities vested in or imposed on the WAPC by the Act or any other written law as the case requires.

Resolution under section 16 of the Act (delegation)

On 19 March 2020, pursuant to section 16 of the Act, the WAPC RESOLVED –

- A. TO DELEGATE to local governments, and to members and officers of those local governments, its powers and functions under section 15 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985* as set out in clause 1 of the Schedule, within their respective districts, subject to the conditions set out in clause 23 of Schedule 1;
- B. TO DELEGATE to local governments and to members and officers of those local governments, its powers and functions under sections 21 and 22 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985* as set out in clause 2 of Schedule 1, within their respective districts, subject to the conditions set out in clause 3 of Schedule 1;
- C. TO AMEND “Del 2020/01 – Powers of Local Governments” to give effect to its resolution and to publish an updated, consolidated instrument.

SAM FAGAN, Secretary,
Western Australian Planning Commission.



Schedule 1

1. Applications made under section 15 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*

Power to determine applications under section 15 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*, except those applications that –

- a) propose the creation of a vacant lot;
- b) propose vacant air stratas in multi-tiered strata scheme developments;
- c) propose the creation or postponement of a leasehold scheme;
- d) propose a type 1 (a) subdivision or a type 2 subdivision (as defined in section 3 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*);
- e) in the opinion of the WAPC as notified to the relevant local government in writing, or in the opinion of the relevant local government as notified to the WAPC in writing, relate to –

- i. a type of development; and/or
- ii. land within an area,

which is of state or regional significance, or in respect of which the WAPC has determined is otherwise in the public interest for the WAPC to determine the application.

2. Applications under sections 21 and 22 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*

Power to determine applications under –

- (a) section 21 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*;
- (b) section 22 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985* where the amendment or repeal of scheme by-laws requires the approval of the WAPC.

3. Reporting requirements

A local government that exercises the power referred to in clause 1 and/or clause 2 is to provide WAPC with data on all applications determined under this Instrument of Delegation. This must be provided at the conclusion of each financial year in the format prescribed by the WAPC.

Delegator	Council
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Statutory Services Manager Planning & Environment



CE-138 <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> Appointments	
Date of adoption	9 August 2011
Function delegated	<p>1. That pursuant to the provisions of Section 48 of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>, Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the performance of its functions under the Act as detailed in ATTACHMENT 3 entitled "Delegations to Chief Executive Officer under the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>";</p> <p>2. That pursuant to Section 59(3) and 59A of the <i>Bushfires Act 1954</i> the Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management, Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management and any person appointed to the position of Community Safety Ranger, Fire Protection Officer and Fire Hazard Inspection Officer are appointed to consider allegations of offences alleged to have been committed against the Act in the Shire of Mundaring and if the delegate thinks fit to institute and carry on proceedings in the name of the Shire of Mundaring against any person alleged to have committed those offences;</p> <p>3. That pursuant to Section 17(10) of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> the Shire President and Chief Bush Fire Control Officer jointly are delegated to:</p> <p>(A) Vary the prohibited burning times in the whole of, or part of the Shire of Mundaring by shortening, extending, suspending, reimposing a period of prohibited burning times or by imposing a further period of prohibited burning times.</p> <p>(B) Rescind or modify the variation upon receipt of a notice by the Shire of Mundaring from the Minister directing the Shire to rescind or modify such variation.</p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> s. 48, s. 17 and s. 18
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	As specified above: Chief Executive Officer Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Community Safety Rangers Fire Protection Officers Fire Hazard Inspection Officers



	Shire President & Chief Bush Fire Control Officer jointly
Statutory power to sub-delegate	No statutory power to sub-delegate is provided in the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> <i>Bush Fires Regulations 1954</i> <i>Bush Fires (Infringements) Regulations 1978</i>

CE-138 Attachment 3

Delegations to the CEO under the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> and the <i>Bush Fires Regulations 1954</i>	
Section 13 (4)	Authorise bush fire liaison officer or another person to take control of all operations in relation to a fire.
Section 18 (5)	Declare and vary restricted burning times and conditions.
Section 18 (10A)	Declare when and by whom bush may be burnt.
Section 18 (10B)	Determine date by which applications to set fire to bush are to be submitted and allocate day or days on which burning may take place.
Section 18 (10C)	Vary the notice required in relation to burning permitted under 10B.
Section 22 (6)	Arrange with the occupier of exempt land and the occupier of land adjoining exempt land to co-operate in burning firebreaks on the respective lands.
Section 22 (7)	Specify the dimensions of firebreaks required in association with burning to be conducted as per s. 22 (6).
Section 23 (1) (b)	During prohibited burning times permit the owner or occupier of land to burn bush on a road reserve adjoining his land or to burn bush on any of his land that is grass land, for the purpose of protecting pasture or crop growing on his land from damage by fire.
Section 24F (2) (b) (ii)	Give written permission during limited burning times to burn garden refuse in an incinerator where there is no inflammable material within 2 metres of the incinerator, a person is present until the fire is extinguished and when the fire is no longer required, it is completely extinguished by the application of water or earth.
Section 24G (2)	Prohibit or restrict the burning of garden refuse by notice published in the Gazette and a newspaper circulating in the district.



Section 24G (5)	Vary or cancel a notice issued under 24G (2).
Section 25 (1) (a)	Approve in writing the lighting of a fire for the purpose of camping or cooking at a time when the fire danger is catastrophic, extreme, severe or very high.
Section 25 (1) (b)	Approve the lighting of a fire in the restricted or prohibited burning times for the conversion of bush into charcoal or in or about a lime kiln.
Section 25 (1a)	Prohibit the lighting of fires in the open air for the purpose of camping or cooking during the prohibited burning times by notice published in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the district.
Section 25A (5)	Notwithstanding any provision of this section issue a notice in writing on a person to whom a ministerial exemption has been granted prohibiting that person from lighting a fire to which the exemption relates.
Section 27 (2)	Permit the use of tractors the exhaust pipes of which are not vertical, so long as the other requirements specified in respect of a tractor in paragraph a) of subsection (1) and any notice under subsection (3) are complied with.
Section 27 (3)	Prohibit the operation of any tractor or self-propelled harvester that is not equipped with a fire extinguisher, by notice in a newspaper circulating in the district and by radio broadcast with coverage to the district and by display of such notice in prominent positions in the district.
Section 27 (4)	Vary or cancel a notice issued as per subsection (3).
Section 28 (5)	Recover the expenses of the local government incurred in extinguishing a fire where the occupier of the land on which the fire is situated has failed to take measures to extinguish it.
Section 33 (1)	Give notice to an owner or occupier of land by publishing a notice in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the district requiring the installation and maintenance of fire breaks and to take other specified actions in relation to anything on the land which is conducive to the outbreak of a bush fire or the spread or extension of a bush fire.
Section 33 (4)	Direct a bush fire control officer, or any officer of the local government with required workmen or contractors to enter upon the land of an owner or occupier who fails or neglects to comply with the notice issued as per subsection (1) to carry out the works required.

Section 33 (5)	Ascertain and fix the amount of any costs incurred in carrying out works as per (4) and recover same in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due from the owner.
Section 33 (6)	At the request of the owner or occupier of land within its district, carry out on the land, at the expense of the owner or occupier, any works for the removal or abatement of a fire danger, and recover the amount of the expense, if not paid on demand, from the owner or occupier in a court of competent jurisdiction.
Section 38 (1) and (2A)	Appoint such persons as considered necessary to be bush fire control officers including a Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and a Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and cause notice of such appointments to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in the district.
Section 38 (5A)	Issue directions to a bush fire control officer or to an officer of a bush fire brigade to burn, subject to the provisions of the Act, bush on, or at the margins of, streets, roads, and ways, under the care, control and management of the Shire.
Section 38 (8) and (9)	Subject to DFES declaring the Shire an approved local government, appoint such numbers of senior bush fire control officers to the office of fire weather officer and define the part of the district in which each fire weather officer may exercise the powers conferred by the Act.
Section 38 (10)	Appoint one or more persons to be deputies of a fire weather officer appointed under (8) and (9).
Section 46	Prohibit or postpone the lighting of a fire where it is considered that the fire if lit would be or become a source of danger by escaping from the land on which it is proposed to be lit.
Regulation 20	Prohibit the issue of a permit to burn subterranean clover if such burning may be a source of danger to lands adjoining the land on which the proposed burning is to take place.

CE-139 <i>Building Act 2011 - Authorised Persons</i>	
Date of adoption	13 December 2011
Function delegated	Authority to 1. Designate an employee as an authorised person under s. 96(3) of the <i>Building Act 2011</i> ; and 2. Limit the powers of an authorised person by imposing conditions on a person's instrument of designation or by written notice and at any time revoke or vary such condition or notice.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 96(3) Authorised persons s. 99 Limitation on powers of authorised person
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 127 Delegation: special permit authorities and local governments
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 127(6A) Delegation: special permit authorities and local governments – power to sub-delegate is limited to CEO's
CEO's sub-delegation to	n/a
Compliance links	<i>Building Act 2011</i> <i>Building Regulations 2012</i> National Construction Code
Conditions	CEO to be satisfied that authorised person is suitably qualified in accordance with s. 5.36(3) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .



CE-140 <i>Building Act 2011 – Permits, Certificates, Orders and Records</i>	
Date of adoption	13 December 2011
Function delegated	Authority for suitably qualified persons who, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer have the qualifications to undertake the roles and functions of a building surveyor, to administer <i>Building Act 2011</i> sections: 20 - Grant of building permit 21 - Grant of demolition permit 22 - Further grounds for not granting an application 27 - Conditions imposed by permit authority 55 - Occupancy permits and building approval certificates, further information 58 - Grant of occupancy permit, building approval certificate 62 - Conditions imposed by permit authority 65 - Extension of period of duration 110 - Building orders 117 - Revocation of building order 118 - Permit authority may give effect to building order if non-compliance; and 131 - Inspection, copies of building records.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 20, 21, 22, 27, 55, 58, 62, 65, 110, 117, 118 and 131
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 127 Delegation: special permit authorities and local governments
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 127(6A) Delegation: special permit authorities and local governments – power to sub-delegate is limited to CEO's
CEO's sub-delegation to	Manager Building and Health Senior Building Surveyor Building Surveyor
Compliance links	<i>Building Act 2011</i> <i>Building Regulations 2012</i> National Construction Code
Conditions	Nil.



CE-141 Appointment of Authorised Officers – <i>Public Health Act 2016</i>	
Date of adoption	13 December 2016
Function delegated	Authority to designate a person or class of persons as Authorised Officers for the purpose of fulfilling prescribed functions of the <i>Public Health Act 2016</i> . Authority to issue Certificates of Authority to persons designated as Authorised Officers.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Public Health Act 2016</i> s. 24 Designation of authorised officers s. 30 Certificates of authority
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Public Health Act 2016</i> s. 21 Enforcement agency may delegate
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	N/A
CEO's sub-delegation to	N/A
Compliance links	N/A
Conditions	1. The CEO may, at his discretion, refer any matter to Council for decision.



CE-142 <i>Food Act 2008</i>	
Date of adoption	9 October 2012
Function delegated	<p>That Council:</p> <p>1. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Appointment of authorised officers under s. 122 of the Act; · Issue of certificates of authority under s. 123 of the Act; · Appointment of designated officers under s. 126(2), (6) and (7) of the Act to issue, extend time for payment or withdraw infringement notices. <p>2. Delegates to the Director Statutory Services and the Manager Building and Health the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue a prohibition order, issue a certificate of clearance; provide written notification not to issue a certificate of clearance approval under s. 65, 66 and 67 of the Act. <p>3. Delegates to the Director Statutory Services, the Manager Building and Health and the Senior Environmental Health Officer the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant, apply conditions, refuse, vary or cancel registration of a food business under s. 110 and 112 of the Act.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Food Act 2008</i> s. 65, 66, 67, 110 and 112 s. 122, 123 and 126
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Food Act 2008 s. 118</i>
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	As specified above: Chief Executive Officer Director Statutory Services Manager Building and Health Senior Environmental Health Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	Nil. The <i>Food Regulations 2009</i> do not provide the power to sub-delegate.
CEO's sub-delegation to	n/a
Compliance links	<i>Food Act 2008</i> and <i>Food Regulations 2009</i>



CE-143 <i>Cat Act 2011</i>	
Date of adoption	12 November 2013
Function delegated	Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer all the powers and duties of the local government under the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> , except the power to deal with an objection (s. 70).
Statutory power delegated	<i>Cat Act 2011</i> – refer to Schedule A
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Cat Act 2011</i> s. 44
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Cat Act 2011</i> s. 45
CEO's sub-delegation to	refer to Schedule A
Compliance links	<i>Cat Act 2011</i> <i>Cat Regulations 2012</i> Shire of Mundaring "Keeping of Cats" Local Law
Conditions	Nil

CE-143: Schedule A

On-delegation reference	Function	Delegated to	On-delegated to
SS - 48	<i>Cat Act 2011 – s. 9</i> Refuse to grant or refuse to renew a cat registration.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 51	<i>Cat Act 2011 – s. 10(b)</i> Cancel the registration of a cat where the cat owner has been convicted of offences as prescribed.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 54	<i>Cat Act 2011 – s. 13</i> On refusal to grant or renew a registration of a cat or cancel a registration of a cat, notify the owner within seven (7) days of making the decision.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 55	<i>Cat Act 2011 – s. 26</i> Issue a cat control notice.	CEO	Community Safety Ranger Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management



			Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 56	Cat Act 2011 – s. 37(1) & (2) Cat Regulations 2012 – r. 22 Grant, refuse to grant, renew or refuse to renew an application to breed cats.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 57	Cat Act 2011 – s. 37(3) & (4) Require an applicant to provide documents or information, within a specified time of not more than 21 days, required to determine a breeder application and require the applicant to verify the information by statutory declaration.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 58	Cat Act 2011 – s. 38 Cancel an approval to breed.	CEO	Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 59	Cat Act 2011 – s. 39 Issue a certificate to an approved breeder.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 60	Cat Act 2011 – s. 40 Notify the applicant of the decision to approve or decline the registration or approve or decline the breeder's application in writing within seven (7) days of making the decision.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 61	Cat Act 2011 – s. 49(3) Recover the costs associated with the destruction of a cat in a court of competent jurisdiction.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services

CE-144 Appointment of Authorised and Approved Officers – Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992	
Date of adoption	14 February 2017
Function delegated	Authority to appoint persons or classes of persons as Authorised or Approved Officers for the purpose of issuing and managing infringement notices under the <i>Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992</i> .
Statutory power delegated	<i>Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992</i> reg. 15D(5) – Infringement notices
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992</i> reg. 15D(7)
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	N/A
CEO's sub-delegation to	N/A
Compliance links	N/A
Conditions	Nil



CE-147 Dog Act 1976	
Date of adoption	28 January 2014
Function delegated	Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer all the powers and duties of the local government under the <i>Dog Act 1976</i> and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to further delegate the powers and duties.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> <i>Dog Regulations 2013</i>
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> s. 10AA Delegation of local government powers and duties
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> s. 10AA(3)
CEO's sub-delegation to	refer to Schedule A
Compliance links	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> <i>Dog Regulations 2013</i>
Conditions	Nil

CE-147: Schedule A

On-delegation reference	Function	Delegated to	On-delegated to
SS - 62	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 10A</i> Pay and direct a vet to sterilise a dog owned by an eligible person.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 63	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 11</i> Appoint person(s) to administer dog management facilities.	CEO	Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 65	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 15</i> Discount or waive the registration fee for an individual dog or any class of dogs, except dangerous dogs.	CEO	No sub-delegation
SS – 66	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 16</i> Refuse to effect, refuse to renew, cancel a dog	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management



	registration in the prescribed circumstances and notify the applicant forthwith of the grounds upon which the decision was made. .		Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 68	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 17A</i> If no application for registration has been made, give written notice to the owner that a dog cannot be registered because of any of the prescribed reasons and inform the owner of right of review.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 70	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 26(3)</i> Grant an exemption from the limit imposed on the number of dogs that can be kept.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 71	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 27</i> Grant or cancel a kennel licence.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 72	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 33H</i> Revoke a dangerous dog declaration or proposal to destroy a dangerous dog.	CEO	Director Statutory Services

CE-148 Serving Notices Requiring Certain Things to be Done by Owner or Occupier of Land	
Date of adoption	28 January 2014
Function delegated	<p>The Chief Executive Officer is delegated the power to issue a notice in writing relating to the land requiring the person to do anything specified in Schedule 3.1, Division 1 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> or for the purpose of remedying or mitigating the effects of any offence prescribed in Schedule 3.1, Division 2 including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prevent water from dripping or running from a building; 2. placing a number on a property to indicate an address; 3. repair a public thoroughfare; 4. ensure that land that adjoins a public thoroughfare is suitably enclosed; 5. ensure unsightly land is enclosed; 5A. ensure overgrown vegetation, rubbish or disused material is removed from land; 6. take measures to prevent movement of sand, rocks etc; 7. ensure that land adjoining a public thoroughfare is not overgrown; 8. removing a tree or part that is obstructing a thoroughfare; 9. ensuring that a tree that endangers any person is made safe (dangerous tree); 10. taking specified measures to prevent damage to the public or property from cyclonic activity; 11. remove bees that are a danger or a nuisance; 12. ensure that unsightly, dilapidated or dangerous fence is modified or repaired; 13. take measures to prevent artificial light or other light being omitted or reflected to remove a nuisance; 14. make safe anything that is obstructing a private thoroughfare.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>



	s. 3.25 Notices requiring certain things to be done by owner or occupier of land
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Infrastructure Services Director Statutory Services Director Corporate Services Director Strategic and Community Services
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Schedule 3.1 Powers under notices to owners or occupiers of land
Conditions	Nil



CE-149 Additional Powers When Notice is Given to the Owner or Occupier of Land Under Section 3.25	
Date of adoption	28 January 2014
Function delegated	The Chief Executive Officer is delegated the power to do anything considered necessary to achieve, so far as is practicable, the purpose for which a notice under section 3.25 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> was given, including recovering the cost of anything done as a debt due from the person who failed to comply with the notice.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.26 Additional powers when notices given
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Infrastructure Services Director Statutory Services Director Corporate Services Director Strategic and Community Services
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.25 Notices requiring certain things to be done by owner or occupier of land Schedule 3.1 Powers under notices to owners or occupiers of land
Conditions	Nil



Delegations to Committees of Council

COM-46 Annual Meeting with Auditor	
Date of adoption	26 September 2006
Function delegated	That Council delegates authority to the Audit and Risk Committee to meet with the auditor of the Shire of Mundaring at least once in every year to satisfy the requirement of <i>s. 7.12A(2) of the Local Government Act 1995</i> .
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 7.12A(2) Duties of local government with respect to audits
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.16 Delegation of some powers and duties to certain committees s. 7.1B Delegation of some powers and duties to audit committees
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Audit and Risk Committee
Statutory power to sub-delegate	Nil
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	Department of Local Government and Communities Operational Guideline No. 9 – Audit in Local Government
Conditions	Nil. Sub-delegation is prohibited by s. 7.1B





DELEGATIONS REGISTER
20232

Adopted Month Year

Review		
Reviewed by	Date approved	Council decision number
Council	26 February 2013	C16.02.13
Council	25 February 2014	C17.02.14
Council	10 February 2015	C5.02.15
Council	9 February 2016	C9.02.16
Council	11 April 2017	C9.04.17
Council	13 February 2018	C28.02.18
Council	12 February 2019	C24.02.19
Council	10 March 2020	C25.03.20
Council	13 April 2021	C9.04.21
Council	10 May 2022	C10.05.22



Introduction

The Delegations of Authority contained in this manual are made to the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to section 5.42 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) and to Committees pursuant to section 5.16. Where listed some of these functions are delegated by the Chief Executive Officer to Shire of Mundaring employees pursuant to section 5.44 of the Act. All delegations made by Council must be by **absolute majority** decision.

The Act provides that the following are decisions that cannot be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer (s. 5.43):

- Any power or duty that requires a decision of an absolute majority or 75% majority of the local government.
- Accepting a tender which exceeds an amount determined by the local government.
- Appointing an auditor.
- Acquiring or disposing of any property valued at an amount exceeding the amount determined by the local government.
- Any of the local government's powers under sections 5.98, 5.98A, 5.99, 5.99A and 5.100 of the Act.
- Borrowing money on behalf of the local government.
- Hearing or determining an objection of a kind referred to in section 9.5.
- The power under section 9.49A(4) to authorise a person to sign documents on behalf of the local government.
- Any power or duty that requires the approval of the Minister or the Governor.
- Such other duties or powers as may be prescribed.

Furthermore the following regulations prescribe powers and duties which cannot be delegated to a CEO:

- Regulation 18G of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* prohibits the delegation to a CEO of the powers and duties under:
 - (i) Sections 7.12A(2), 7.12A(3)(a) and 7.12A(4) of the *Local Government Act 1995* (relating to meetings with auditors); and
 - (ii) Regulations 18C and 18D (relating to the selection and appointment of CEOs and reviews of their performance).
- Regulation 6 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* prohibits the delegation of the duty to conduct an internal audit to an employee (including a CEO) who has been delegated the duty of maintaining the local government's day to day accounts or financial management operations.

The Act allows for the Chief Executive Officer to delegate any of their powers to another employee, this must be done in writing. These powers cannot, however, be further sub-delegated (s. 5.44). The Act also allows the delegator to place conditions on any delegations if required.

A register of delegations, being this manual, is to be kept and reviewed at least once every financial year.

If a person is exercising a power or duty that they have been delegated, the Act requires them to keep records relating to the exercise of the power or discharge of the duty. The written record is to contain:

- How and when the person exercised the power or discharged the duty; and



- The persons or classes of persons, other than council or committee members or employees of the local government, directly affected by the exercise of the power or the discharge of the duty.

Each instrument of delegation in this register describes the function being delegated and the relevant statutory reference which is the source of power for the exercise of the function. Also included is a reference to related documents such as policies of Council, which may provide guidance in the exercise of the delegation.

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Corporate Services

CE-1 Payments from Trust and Municipal Fund	
Date of adoption	22 July 1997
Function delegated	That Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of its power to make payments from the Trust Fund or Municipal Fund (this includes Reserves and Restricted Assets).
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> r. 12(1)(a) Payments from municipal fund or trust fund
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> r. 5 Financial management duties of the CEO r. 11 Payment of accounts r. 13 Lists of accounts Organisational Practice: OP-58 Corporate Purchasing Card Procedure: Admin-29 Issue and Use of Corporate Purchasing Cards
Conditions	Nil



CE-2 Investments	
Date of adoption	23 July 1996
Function delegated	That the Chief Executive Officer be delegated authority to invest money held in the municipal or trust fund that is not for the time being required for any other purpose with financial institutions approved by Council.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 6.14 Power to invest <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> r. 19 Management of investments
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Corporate Services Manager Finance and Governance
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 6.14(2)(a) Comply with regulations <i>Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996</i> r.19C Investment of money <i>Trustees Act 1962 Part III Investments</i> Policy: FI-02 Investments Procedure: Admin-28 Investments
Conditions	Nil



CE-74 Appointment of Authorised Persons	
Date of adoption	25 February 2014
Function delegated	Authority to appoint persons or classes of persons as authorised persons for the purpose of fulfilling prescribed functions within: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>; 2. the <i>Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995</i>; 3. the <i>Cat Act 2011</i>; 4. the <i>Cemeteries Act 1986</i>; 5. the <i>Control of Vehicles (Off-road Areas) Act 1978</i>; 6. the <i>Dog Act 1976</i>; 7. subsidiary legislation made under the above Acts; and 8. the Shire's Local Laws made under those Acts.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.24 Authorising persons under this subdivision s. 9.10 Appointment of authorised persons
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> : 1. r. 32A Excluded authorisations (Act s.9.2)
Conditions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The CEO may, at his discretion, refer any matter to Council for decision; and 2. Details of any prosecutions under a Local Law must be provided to Council.

CE-117 Community Lease Agreements	
Date of adoption	25 February 2014
Function delegated	<p>Authority to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Renew existing lease agreements with charitable, benevolent, religious, cultural, educational, recreational, sporting, environmental or other similar groups or government agencies for properties that are owned or under the care, control and management of the Shire of Mundaring; and 2. Negotiate new lease agreements with existing lessees whose lease has expired. 3. <u>Renegotiate minor variations* to clauses of existing lease agreements.</u> <p><u>* see definition below.</u></p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.58 Disposing of property
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> r. 30 Dispositions of property excluded from Act s. 3.58
Conditions	Delegated decision making must take into consideration Policy OR-24 "Community Leases".
<u>Definition</u>	<p><u>Minor variations includes but is not limited to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Change of group name</u> • <u>Change of control</u> • <u>Change to timeframes (excluding legislated requirements).</u>

CE-119 Appointment of Acting CEO	
Date of adoption	22 May 2007
Function delegated	Authority to appoint an Acting Chief Executive Officer in accordance with Council policy AS-03 "Acting Chief Executive Officer" and for a period not exceeding three months.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> 5.36(1)(a) Local government employees
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996</i> – r. 18A(1)(b) – acting term not to exceed one year. Policy AS-03 "Acting Chief Executive Officer"
Conditions	Appointment to be made in accordance with Policy AS-03 "Acting Chief Executive Officer"



CE-125 Write Off Debt	
Date of adoption	22 July 2008
Function delegated	<p>Authority to defer, waive, grant concession and conditions or write off any amount of money under section 6.12 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).</p> <p><i>Note that s. 6.12(2) of the Local Government Act 1995 does not allow money owed to the Shire in respect of rates and service charges to be waived or for a concession in relation to such money to be granted.</i></p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 6.12 Power to defer, grant discounts, waive or write off debts
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Corporate Services Manager Finance and Governance
CEO's conditions on sub-delegation	Director Corporate Services and Manager Finance and Governance are sub-delegated only to write off individual rate balances, which relate to penalty interest only, up to \$10 for administrative purposes.
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 6.12 Power to defer, grant discounts, waive or write off debts
Conditions	Nil



CE-152 Commercial Lease Agreements	
Date of adoption	13 April 2021
Function delegated	<p>Authority to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>1. Extend existing lease agreements with commercial tenants in accordance with the extension options provided for in the lease;</u> <u>2. Renegotiate minor variations* to clauses of existing lease agreements;</u> <u>3. Enact potential landlord actions*;</u> <u>4. Negotiate a new lease with existing commercial tenants.</u> <p><u>* see definitions below.</u></p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995 s. 3.58</i>
Statutory power of delegation	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO</p>
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Council's conditions on delegation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In accordance with s. 5.43 of the Act the maximum value of disposal by commercial lease is \$5,000,000 over the full term of any lease. <u>2. Any re-negotiated rent cannot be less than 90% of the previous rent.</u> <u>2-3. A new lease negotiated with an existing tenant is limited to a maximum of a 10 year term including options.</u>
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	n/a
CEO's conditions on sub-delegation	n/a
Compliance links	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995 s. 3.58.</i> Council's adopted Investment Property Strategy.</p>
<u>Definition</u>	<p><u>Minor variations includes but is not limited to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>• Change of business name</u> <u>• Change of control</u> <u>• Change to timeframes (excluding legislated requirements).</u> <p><u>Landlord actions includes but is not limited to:</u></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>approve assignment</u>• <u>issue notices</u>• <u>approve dealings on the land and sub leases</u>• <u>approve actions with lease financiers (when required)</u>
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CE-153 Powers of Entry	
Date of adoption	14 October 2014
Function delegated	Authority to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter on to land to perform any function of the local government under Schedules 3.1 and 3.2 of the Act; 2. Give a notice of entry (s. 3.32); 3. Seek and execute an entry under warrant (s. 3.33); 4. Execute entry in an emergency (s. 3.34) 5. Give notice and effect entry by opening a fence (s. 3.36).
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.32 Notice of entry s. 3.33 Entry under warrant s. 3.34 Entry in an emergency s. 3.36 Opening fences
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Directory Statutory Services Director Infrastructure Services Manager Planning & Environment Manager Building & Health Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Operations
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Part 3 Division 3 Subdivision 3, and specifically s. 3.31 General procedure for entering property
Conditions	Nil



Infrastructure Services

CE-150 Performing Particular Things on Land which is not Local Government Property	
Date of adoption	28 January 2014
Function delegated	<p>The Chief Executive Officer is delegated the power to carry out things prescribed in Schedule 3.2 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> even though the land is not local government property and the local government does not have consent to do it, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out works for the drainage of land; 2. Do earthworks or other works on land for preventing or reducing flooding; 3. Take from land any native growing or dead timber, earth, stone, sand or gravel that, in its opinion, the local government requires for making or repairing a thoroughfare, bridge, culvert, fence or gate; 4. Deposit and leave on land adjoining a thoroughfare any timber, earth, stone, sand, gravel, and other material that persons engaged in making or repairing a thoroughfare, bridge, culvert, fence or gate do not, in the opinion of the local government, require; 5. Make a temporary thoroughfare through land for use by the public as a detour while work is being done on a public thoroughfare; 6. Place on land signs to indicate the names of public thoroughfares; 7. Make safe a tree that presents serious and immediate danger, without having to give the owner the notice otherwise required by regulations.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.27 Particular things local governments can do on land that is not local government property
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>



	s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Statutory Services Director Infrastructure Services Manager Planning & Environment Manager Building & Health Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Operations
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Schedule 3.2 Particular things local governments can do on land even though it is not local government property
Conditions	Nil

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CE-151 Expressions of Interest and Tenders	
Date of adoption	25 February 2014
Function delegated	<p>Authority to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. invite tenders though not required to do so [F&G Reg. 13]; 2. determine the selection criteria for deciding which tender should be accepted [F&G Reg. 14(2a)]; 3. determine the information to be disclosed to those interested in submitting a tender [F&G Reg. 14(4)(a)]; 4. vary tender information after public notice of invitation to tender and before the close of tenders [F&G Reg. 14(5)]; 5. accept or reject tenders [F&G Reg. 18]; 6. accept the next most advantageous tender where within 6 months of accepting a tender a contract has not been entered into, or the successful tenderer agrees to terminate the contract [F&G Reg. 18 (6) and (7)]; 7. determine minor variations before entering into a contract [F&G Reg. 20]; 8. vary a contract that has been entered into with a successful tenderer, provided the variation(s) do not change the scope of the original contract or increase the contract value beyond 10% [F&G Reg. 21A(a)]; 9. exercise an extension option that was included in the original tender specification and contract in accordance with F&G Reg. 11(2)(j) [F&G Reg. 21A(b)]; 10. determine appropriate circumstances for seeking and inviting expressions of interest for the supply of goods or services [F&G Reg. 21]; 11. consider expressions of interest which have not been rejected and determine those which are capable of satisfactorily providing the goods or services, for listing as acceptable tenderers [F&G Reg. 23]. <p>Authority to establish a panel of pre-qualified suppliers to supply particular goods or services in accordance with Part 4 Division 3 of the F&G Regulations.</p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>



	<p>s. 3.57 Tenders for providing goods and services</p> <p><i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i></p> <p>r. 11 When tenders have to be publicly invited</p> <p>r. 13 Requirements when local government invites tenders though not required to do so</p> <p>r. 14(2a) and (5) Publicly inviting tenders, requirements for</p> <p>r. 18 Rejecting and accepting tenders</p> <p>r. 20 Variation of requirements before entry into contract</p> <p>r. 21A Varying a contract for the supply of goods and services</p> <p>r. 21 Limiting who can tender, procedure for</p> <p>r. 23 Rejecting and accepting expressions of interest to be acceptable tendered</p> <p>Division 3 Establish panels of pre-qualified suppliers</p>
Statutory power of delegation	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995</i></p> <p>s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO</p> <p>s. 5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO</p>
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Council's conditions on delegation	<p><u>Delegation to CEO:</u></p> <p><u>Selection Criteria [F&G Reg. 14(2a)]:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Selection criteria must be stated in the Request for Tender document and comply with the requirements of the regulations.</u> 2. <u>Where the selection criteria has been determined by the CEO, Council is to accept or reject the tender.</u> <p><u>Accepting or Rejecting Tenders [F&G Reg. 18]</u></p> <p><u>2.3.</u> Regular supply tenders* and tenders for plant and vehicles: may accept the most advantageous tender for all items identified in the adopted Annual Budget;</p> <p><u>3.4.</u> Other tenders: may only accept a tender where the consideration under the resulting contract is \$375,000 (excluding GST) or less and the item is identified in the adopted Annual Budget.</p> <p>* see definition below.</p>
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995</i></p> <p>s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees</p>
CEO's sub-delegation to	<p>Director Infrastructure Services (DIS)</p> <p>Director Corporate Services (DCS)</p>



	<p><u>Manager of Operations</u> <u>Manager of Building Assets</u> <u>Manager of Information Technology</u></p>
<p>CEO's conditions on sub-delegation</p>	<p><u>Sub-delegation to DIS and DCS includes all function delegated to the CEO.</u></p> <p><u>Conditions include:</u></p> <p>1. Tender must be relevant to DIS's and or DCS's area of responsibility.</p> <p><u>Selection Criteria [F&G Reg. 14(2a)];</u></p> <p>2. <u>Selection criteria must be stated in the Request for Tender document and comply with the requirements of the regulations.</u></p> <p>3. <u>Where the selection criteria has been determined by DIS or DCS, the CEO is to accept or reject the tender.</u></p> <p><u>Accepting or Rejecting Tenders [F&G Reg. 18]</u></p> <p>2.4. Regular supply tenders* and tenders for plant and vehicles: may accept the most advantageous tender for all items identified in the adopted Annual Budget;</p> <p>3.5. Other tenders: may only accept a tender where the consideration under the resulting contract is \$250,000\$375,000 (excluding GST) or less and the item is identified in the adopted Annual Budget.;</p> <p>4.6. DIS and DCS cannot accept tenders for which he/she has determined the criteria. <u>Selection criteria must be recorded in the appropriate record and comply with the requirements of the regulations. Where the selection criteria has been approved by DIS or DCS, the CEO is to accept or reject the tender.</u></p> <p>* see definition below.</p> <p><u>Sub-delegation to Manager of Operations, Manager of Building Assets or Manager of Information Technology limited to:</u></p> <p><u>Selection Criteria [F&G Reg. 14(2a)];</u></p> <p>1. <u>Tender must be relevant to Manager of Operations, Manager of Building Assets or Manager of Information Technology area of responsibility.</u></p> <p>2. <u>Selection criteria must be stated in the Request for Tender document and comply with the requirements of the regulations.</u></p> <p>3. <u>Where the selection criteria has been approved by Manager of Operations, Manager</u></p>



	<p><u>of Building Assets or Manager of Information Technology, DIS, DCS or the CEO is to accept or reject the tender.</u></p>
Compliance links	<p><i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996 – Part 4 Division 2</i></p> <p><i>Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996</i> r. 31 Anti-avoidance provision for Act s. 3.58</p> <p>Policy AS-04 Purchasing Policy Procedure Admin-30 Ordering and Payment of Goods and Services Procedure Admin-31 Quotations for Purchase of Goods and Services</p>
Definition	<p>* Regular supply tenders means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste and Recycling Services • Utilities – Energy, <u>Gas</u> and Water • Civil Engineering and Construction Services • Cleaning and <u>Building</u> Maintenance Services • <u>Surveyor Services</u> • <u>Infrastructure Design and Investigation Services</u> • Parks and Horticultural Services • Telecommunications • Information Technology Services • Recruitment Services



CE-154 <i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i>	
Date of adoption	13 April 2021
Function delegated	All powers, duties and functions of a local government under the <i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> .
Statutory power delegated	All powers, duties and functions of a local government under the <i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> .
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> s. 16 – delegation by local government
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Graffiti Vandalism Act 2016</i> s. 17 – delegation by CEO of local government
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Infrastructure Services
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Part 9 – Divisions 1 and 2
Conditions	Nil



Statutory Services

CE-14	Noise Control – Environmental Protection Notice [s. 65(1)]
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986 Section 20	
DELEGATION No. 52	
Pursuant to section 20 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> , the Chief Executive Officer hereby delegates as follows—	
Powers and duties delegated—	
All the powers and duties of the Chief Executive Officer, where any noise is being or is likely to be emitted from any premises not being premises licensed under the Act, to serve an environmental protection notice under section 65(1) in respect of those premises, and where an environmental protection notice is so served in such a case, all the powers and duties of the Chief Executive Officer under Part V of the Act in respect of that environmental protection notice.	
Persons to whom delegation made—	
This delegation is made to any person for the time being holding or acting in the office of Chief Executive Officer under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .	
Pursuant to section 59(1)(e) of the <i>Interpretations Act 1984</i> , Delegation No. 32, dated 4 February 2000 is hereby revoked.	
Dated this 9 th day of January 2004. Approved— FERDINAND TROMP, A/Chief Executive Officer. Dr JUDY EDWARDS MLA, Minister for the Environment.	
Government Gazette 19 March 2004 – page 919.	



CE-15	Noise Control - Noise Management Plans [Reg. 13]
EV401*	<p style="text-align: center;">ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DELEGATION NO. 119</p> <p>I, Jason Banks, in my capacity as Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Department responsible for the administration of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (“the Act”), and pursuant to section 20 of the Act, hereby delegate to the holder for the time being of the offices of —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Chief Executive Officer under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>; and(b) to any employee of a local government under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> who is appointed as an Authorised Person under section 87 of the Act, <p>all my powers and duties in relation to noise management plans under regulation 13 of the <i>Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997</i> other than this power of delegation.</p> <p>Under section 59(1)(e) of the <i>Interpretation Act 1984</i>, Delegation No. 111, gazetted 20 December 2013, is hereby revoked.</p> <p>Dated the 1st day of May 2014.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JASON BANKS, Acting Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>Approved by — Hon ALBERT JACOBS JP MLA, Minister for Environment: Heritage.</p>



CE-16 Noise Control - Noise Regulations

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986

DELEGATION NO. 112

I, Jason Banks, in my capacity as Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Environment Regulation responsible for the administration of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* ("the Act"), and pursuant to section 20 of the Act, hereby delegate to any person for the time being holding or acting in the office of a Chief Executive Officer under the *Local Government Act 1995*, my powers and duties under the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*, other than this power of delegation, in relation to —

- (a) waste collection and other works—noise management plans relating to specified works under regulation 14A or 14B;
- (b) bellringing or amplified calls to worship—the keeping of a log of bellringing or amplified calls to worship requested under regulation 15(3)(c)(vi);
- (c) community activities—noise control notices in respect of community noise under regulation 16;
- (d) motor sport venues—noise management plans in relation to motor sport venues under Part 2 Division 3;
- (e) shooting venues—noise management plans in relation to shooting venues under Part 2 Division 4;
- (f) calibration results—requesting, under regulation 23(b), details of calibration results undertaken and obtained under Schedule 4;
- (g) sporting, cultural and entertainment events—approval of events or venues for sporting, cultural and entertainment purposes under Part 2 Division 7, subject to the following limitation—
 - (i) Subregulation 18(13)(b) is not delegated.

Under section 59(1)(e) of the *Interpretation Act 1984*, Delegation No. 68, gazetted 22 June 2007 is hereby revoked.

Dated the 12th day of December 2013.

JASON BANKS, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Approved by —

JOHN DAY, Acting Minister for Environment; Heritage.

Government Gazette 20 December 2013 - page 6282.



CE-84 Local Planning Scheme No. 4	
Date of adoption	13 April 2021
Function delegated	<p>Authority to exercise all powers and discharge all duties under:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Deemed Provisions (Schedule 2) of the <i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015</i> and Local Planning Scheme No. 4 (LPS4); 2. Clause 30 and clause 31 of the Metropolitan Region Scheme (WAPC reference: DEL 2017/02); 3. <i>State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004</i> section 31.
Statutory power delegated	<p><i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015</i> – Schedule 2 Deemed Provisions for local planning schemes; and</p> <p>Local Planning Scheme No. 4.</p>
Statutory power of delegation	<p><i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015</i> – Schedule 2 Deemed Provisions for local planning schemes - regulation 82.</p> <p>Shire of Mundaring Local Planning Scheme No. 4 Clause 11.3.1.</p>
Delegator	Council
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Council's conditions on delegation	<p>Delegated employees -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. cannot: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prepare, amend or revoke Local Planning Policies (cl. 3 – 6 Deemed Provisions and Part 2 of LPS4), unless the amendment is of an administrative nature only; 2. cannot determine applications involving: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. the demolition of a building or structure listed on the Shire's Heritage List or on the State Register of Heritage Places (as amended); 3. Extractive Industry uses; 4. telecommunications infrastructure unless the proposal is a minor addition to an existing telecommunications installation;



	<p>5. applications that propose an extension or expansion to a non-conforming use;</p> <p>6. modifications to an existing approval issued by Council that would be inconsistent with the intent of Council's original decision;</p> <p>7. provide formal referral responses to the Western Australian Planning Commission for proposed Structure Plans involving 35 or more lots;</p> <p>8. a request from the State Administrative Tribunal for reconsideration of a Council decision under section 31 of the <i>State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004</i>;</p> <p>9. an application where an objection/s received during the advertising period, in the opinion of the Manager of Planning and Environment, remains relevant and may not be satisfactorily resolved by modifications or conditions.</p> <p>3. can refuse applications, where:</p> <p>a) an 'X' use is proposed;</p> <p>b) a habitable building is proposed with an unacceptable exposure to bushfire risk (either Bushfire Attack Level 40 or Flamezone) where, in the opinion of the Manager of Planning and Environment, alternative and safer siting and design options exist;</p> <p>c) clearing of Local Natural Area identified as 'Protection' category is proposed and where, in the opinion of the Manager of Planning and Environment, it has not been sufficiently demonstrated that all alternative locations on the lot outside of any Local Natural Area are unviable, impractical or environmentally unsuitable;</p> <p>d) an oversized outbuilding where individual and/or total area is exceeded;</p> <p>e) third party advertising is proposed.</p> <p>Decisions under delegated authority cannot be made unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all councillors are notified of any proposals involving an 'A' use;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> all councillors are informed of any 'Complex Development Applications' as defined within the <i>Shire's Advertising Planning Proposals Local Planning Policy PS-01</i>; <p>Decisions made under delegated authority must be reported to elected members on a monthly basis.</p>
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<p><i>Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015 – Schedule 2 Deemed Provisions for local planning schemes - regulation 83.</i></p> <p>Shire of Mundaring Local Planning Scheme No. 4 Clause 11.3.2.</p>
CEO's sub-delegation to	<p>Director Statutory Services Manager Planning & Environment Coordinator Statutory Planning Coordinator Strategic Planning Planning Officer Planning Compliance Officer</p>
CEO's conditions on sub-delegation	<p>Council's conditions on delegation to the CEO, as above, apply.</p>
Compliance links	<p>All delegated planning decisions must be consistent with the intent of Council's adopted Local Planning Strategy and Local Planning Scheme and applicable Local Planning Policies.</p>



CE-137 <i>Planning and Development Act 2005 – Illegal Development and Direction Notices</i>	
Date of adoption	13 April 2021
Function delegated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give a written direction or any other person undertaking an unauthorised development to stop, and not recommence, the development or that part of the development that is undertaken in contravention of the planning scheme, interim development order or planning control area requirements; • Give a written direction to the owner or any other person who undertook an unauthorised development: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) to remove, pull down, take up or alter the development; and b) to restore the land as nearly as practicable to its condition immediately before the development started, to the satisfaction of the responsible authority. • Give a written direction to the person whose duty it is to execute work, to execute that work where it appears that delay in the execution of the work to be executed under a planning scheme or interim development order would prejudice the effective operation of the planning scheme or interim development order.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i> Section 214(2), (3) and (5)
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Section 5.42 – Delegation of some powers and duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Council's conditions on delegation	Any expenses incurred by the Shire in carrying out the works specified in a direction notice, shall be recovered from the person to whom the direction was given.
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Section 5.44 – CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Statutory Services Manager Planning and Environment
CEO's conditions on sub-delegation	Any expenses incurred by the Shire in carrying out the works specified in a direction notice, shall be recovered from the person to whom the direction was given.



Compliance links	Part 13 of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i>
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CE-155	Delegation of certain powers and functions of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) relating to the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS)
DEL 2017/02	
As gazetted on 30 May 2017 and as amended. Current as at January 2021.	
<p>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2005</p> <p>INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION</p> <p>Del 2017/02 Powers of Local Governments and Department of Transport Metropolitan Region Scheme</p> <p>Delegation of certain powers and functions of the Western Australian Planning Commission relating to the Metropolitan Region Scheme</p>	
Preamble	
<p>Under section 16 of the <i>Planning and Development Act 2005</i> (the Act) the Western Australian Planning Commission (the WAPC) may, by resolution published in the <i>Government Gazette</i>, delegate any function to an officer of a public authority or to a local government, a committee established under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> or an employee of a local government.</p> <p>In accordance with section 16(4) of the Act, a reference in this instrument to a function or a power of the WAPC includes and extends to, without limitation or restriction, any of the powers, privileges, authorities, discretions, duties and responsibilities vested in or conferred upon the WAPC by the Act or any other written law as the case requires.</p>	
Resolution under section 16 of the Act (delegation)	
On 24 May 2017, pursuant to section 16 of the Act, the WAPC resolved –	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To delegate to local governments, and to members and officers of those local governments, its functions in respect of the determination, in accordance with Part IV of the Metropolitan Region Scheme, of applications for approval to commence and carry out development specified in clauses 1 and 2 of Section A, within their respective districts, subject to the conditions set out in clauses 1 to 4 of Section B. 2. To delegate to the Managing Director, Policy, Planning and Investment – Transport, of the Department of Transport, and the person or persons from time to time holding or acting in that office, its functions in respect of the determination, in accordance with Part IV of the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), of applications for approval to commence and carry out development specified in clause 3, Section A, subject to the conditions set out in clause 5 of Section B. 3. To revoke its delegation of powers and functions to local governments and the Department of Transport as detailed in the notice entitled “DEL 2015/02 Powers of local governments and Department of Transport (MRS)” published in the <i>Government Gazette</i> on 18 December 2015, to give effect to this delegation. 	



KERRINE BLENKINSOP, Secretary,
Western Australian Planning Commission.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2005

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

SECTION A – Types of Development

1. Development on zoned land

Applications for development on land zoned under the MRS except –

- a) where the land is subject to a resolution under clause 32 of the MRS; or
- b) where the land is subject to the declaration of a planning control area under Section 112 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*; or
- c) where that land is partly within the development control area described in section 10 of the *Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006* or is outside the development control area but abuts waters within the development control area; or
- d) where the local government is of the opinion that the application should be determined by the WAPC on the grounds that the proposal is of State or regional importance or is in the public interest; or
- e) in respect of public works undertaken by public authorities.

2. Development on regional road reservations

Applications for developments on or abutting land that is reserved in the MRS for the purpose of a regional road.

SECTION B – Conditions

1. Referral requirements for development on land within or abutting a regional road reservation

The following applications for development on land that abuts or is fully or partly reserved as regional road reservation (classified as Category 1, 2 and 3) shall be referred to Main Roads WA (MRWA) or the Department of Planning (DoP) as applicable, for transport planning related comments and recommendations before being determined by the local government subject to the process explained in clause 4, Section B.

Type of regional road reservation in the MRS	Classification on plans SP 693 (PRR) and SP 694 (ORR)	Referral Agency
Primary Regional Road (PRR)	Category 1, 2 and 3	Main Roads WA
Other Regional Road (ORR)	Category 1, 2 and 3	Department of Planning

The regional road network (PRR and ORR) changes periodically with amendments to the MRS. This clause relates to all regional road reservations in the MRS as amended from time to time. Regional roads subject to this notice and the relevant



agency that is responsible for their planning are shown on accompanying editions of plans SP 693 (PRR, MRWA) and SP 694 (ORR, WAPC).

The road categories shown on plans SP 693 (PRR) and SP 694 (ORR) classify the regional roads based on –

- a) the permissible vehicular access arrangements to the subject land via the regional road frontage
 - **Category 1 road** means that frontage access is not allowed (control of access);
 - **Category 2 road** means that frontage access may be allowed subject to approval; and
- b) the legibility and statutory powers of current road land requirements defined for the purpose of regional road reservation in the MRS
 - **Category 3 road** means that the subject regional road reservation is not accurately defined or is subject to a review by the agency that is responsible for planning of the regional road.

“Category 1 road” applies where regional roads –

- a) are constructed or planned to a fully controlled and grade separated freeway standard; or
- b) are constructed or planned to an access controlled arterial standard, i.e. functioning as Primary Distributor or Integrator Arterial (District Distributor) road with widely spaced signalised intersections or roundabouts, and a few, if any, direct access points to individual sites or local streets.

“Category 2 road” applies where regional roads –

- a) are constructed or planned to a partially access controlled arterial standard, (i.e. a primary or district distributor road with direct connections to local streets and driveways to larger sites, but with some restriction of direct frontage access to individual properties); or
- b) have direct frontage access to abutting properties due to historic development of the road and properties.

“Category 3 road” applies where regional road reservation is not accurately defined or is under review.

For enquiries and assistance regarding –

- a) PRR Category 1, 2 and 3 – call Main Roads WA on 138 138.
- b) ORR Category 1, 2 and 3 – call Department of Planning on (08) 6551 9000.

Tables 1, 2 and 3 below outline the category of the regional road reservation and the criteria for referring development applications to agencies in accordance with this instrument of delegation.

Table 1 – Referral process of development applications with respect to Category 1 (PRR or ORR reservations in the MRS)

Respective referral agency (as per Section B)	
Referral is required in these instances	Referral is not required in these instances
1. Where a development application has one or more of the following characteristics – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development, including earthworks and drainage, which encroaches or impacts upon the road reservation; or b) Development with potential for a significant increase in traffic using any access, either directly or indirectly, onto the road reservation; or c) Development, which involves direct vehicle access to and/or from the regional road reservation. 	1. Where the local government first decided to refuse the application under the MRS; or 2. Under circumstances where the application is for an ancillary and incidental addition or modification to an existing authorised development, which does not encroach upon the road reservation and has no intention to alter existing access arrangements.

Table 2 – Referral process of development applications with respect to Category 2 (PRR or ORR reservations in the MRS)

Respective referral agency (as per Section B)	
Referral is required in these instances	Referral is not required in these instances
1. Where a development application has one or more of the following characteristics – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Development, including earthworks and drainage, which encroaches or impacts upon the road reservation; or b) Development with potential for a significant increase in traffic using any access, either directly or indirectly, onto the road reservation; or c) Development, which involves the retention of more than one existing access; or additional, relocated or new access between the subject land and the road reservation; or 	1. Where the local government first decided to refuse the application under the MRS; or 2. Under circumstances where the application is for an ancillary and incidental addition or modification to an existing authorised development, which does not encroach upon the road reservation and has no intention to alter existing access arrangements.



<p>d) Development, which proposed retention of an existing access between the subject land and the road reservation, where alternative access is or could be made available from side or rear streets or from rights of way at rear; or</p> <p>e) Development on a lot affected by the regional road reservation where –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all or part of the proposed development is within the regional road reservation; and • has a construction value greater than \$20 000; or <p>f) Development on a lot affected by the regional road reservation where –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none of the proposed development is within the road reservation; and • has a construction value greater than \$150 000. 	
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Table 3 – Referral process of development applications with respect to Category 3 (PRR or ORR reservation in the MRS)

Respective referral agency (as per Section B)	
Referral is required in these instances	Referral is not required in these instances
9. All development applications, other than those where local government first decides to refuse it.	2. Where the local government first decides to refuse the application under the MRS.

Notes –

- 1) Copies of plans SP 693 (PRR) and SP 694 (ORR) are available from the WAPC's website: "Resolutions and instruments of delegation – WAPC Powers of local governments (MRS)". (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/1212.asp>)
- 2) In determining applications under this delegation, local governments shall have due regard to relevant WAPC and MRWA policy and guidelines, including but not limited to the Commission's DC Policy – *5.1 Regional Roads (Vehicular Access)*, the Transport Impact Assessment Guidelines, and MRWA *Driveways Policy*, which set out the principles and requirements to be applied when considering proposals for vehicle access to or from developments abutting certain categories of regional roads. (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/812.asp>; and



<https://www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/BuildingRoads/StandardsTechnical/RoadandTrafficEngineering/GuidetoRoadDesign/Pages/Driveways.aspx>)

- 3) Local governments shall ensure that sufficient transport information accompanies the development application to assist the referral agency in assessing the transport implications of the proposal. This information should be provided in accordance with the WAPC's *Transport Impact Assessment Guidelines*. <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/1197.asp>.
- 4) With regard to proposals for new noise-sensitive developments, the local government shall have due regard to the provisions of the Commission's *State Planning Policy – 5.4 Road and Rail Transport Noise and Freight Considerations in Land Use Planning*. (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/1182.asp>)
- 5) With regard to development application for the display of advertisements on land reserved under the MRS local government should have regard to the Commission's *DC Policy 5.4 Advertising on Reserved Land*. (<http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/publications/825.asp>)

1. Referral requirements for development on land abutting the Swan River Trust Development Control Area

Applications for development on land that is outside the development control area but abutting land that is in the development control area, or which in the opinion of the local government are likely to affect waters in the development control area, shall be referred to the Swan River Trust for comment and recommendation before being determined by the local government.

2. Referral requirements for development on land abutting other reservations

Applications for development on land abutting land reserved in the MRS for purposes other than regional roads or Parks and Recreation (where the reservation corresponds with the Swan River Trust development control area and is covered by Clause 2, Section B of this notice) shall be referred to the public authority responsible for that reserved land for comment and recommendation before being determined by the local government.

In the case of land reserved for the purpose of Parks and Recreation, which is not vested or owned by another public authority, the applications shall be referred to the Department of Planning before being determined by the local government.

3. For the purpose of this Instrument of Delegation

1. Where an application is referred by the local government to a public authority for comment and recommendation, the public authority shall provide comment and recommendation, if any, within 30 days of receipt of the application. If no comment or recommendation is received within that 30 day period the local government may determine the application on the available information.
2. Where the recommendation provided by the public authority specified in the delegation notice is not acceptable to the local government the application, together with the recommendations provided by all public authorities consulted and the reasons why the recommendation is not acceptable to



the local government, shall be referred immediately to the WAPC for determination.

3. The powers delegated to a member or officer of a local government may only be exercised by a member or officer who has been delegated power from the local government to consider and determine applications for approval to commence and carry out development within the local government district under the local government's local planning scheme.

Interpretation

In this Instrument of Delegation, unless the context otherwise requires –

- A reference to a 'position' or 'classification' contemplates and includes a reference to its successor in title.
- "access" means both entry and exit from either a road or abutting development by a vehicle.
- "Commission" or "WAPC" means the "Western Australian Planning Commission".
- "development" has the same meaning given to it in and for the purposes of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* or "*development means the development or use of any land including –*
 1. *any demolition, erection, construction, alteration of or addition to any building or structure on the land;*
 2. *the carrying out on the land of any excavation or other works;*
 3. *in the case of a place to which a Conservation Order made under section 59 of the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 applies, any act or thing that –*
 - i. *is likely to change the character of that place or the external appearance of any building; or*
 - ii. *would constitute an irreversible alteration of the fabric of any building".*
- "DoT" means the Department of Transport.
- "local road" means a public road other than a private road or a road subject of reservation under Part II of the MRS.
- "not acceptable" means that the local government wishes to determine the application, as a delegate of the WAPC, in a manner that is inconsistent with the recommendation received from the public agency to which the local government was required to consult under this Notice of Delegation.
- Main Roads WA means Main Roads Western Australia.
- "regional road" means any road under the region Scheme as follows –
 - a) land coloured red in the Scheme Map – Primary Regional Roads; and
 - b) land coloured dark blue in the Scheme Map – Other Regional Roads.
- "reserved land" means land reserved under Part II of the MRS.
- "road reservation" means land reserved for the purposes of a regional road in the MRS.



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “significant increase in traffic” means generating more than 100 vehicle trips in the peak hour and would therefore require a transport assessment to accompany the development application. Refer to the Commission’s <i>Transport Impact Assessment Guidelines</i>. 	
Delegator	Council
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
CEO’s sub-delegation to	Director Statutory Services Manager Planning & Environment

DRAFT



CE-156 Delegation of certain powers and functions of the Western Australian Planning Commission relating to the *Strata Titles Act 1985*

DEL 2020/01

As gazetted on 29 January 2021 and as amended.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2005

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

Del 2020/01 Powers of Local Governments

Delegation to local governments of certain powers and functions of the Western Australian Planning Commission relating to certain applications under the *Strata Titles Act 1985*.

Preamble

Under section 16 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005* (the Act) the Western Australian Planning Commission (the WAPC) may, by resolution published in the *Government Gazette*, delegate any function under the Act or any other written law to a local government, a committee established under the *Local Government Act 1995* or an employee of a local government.

In accordance with section 16(4) of the Act, a reference in this instrument to a function or a power of the WAPC includes and extends to, without limitation or restriction, any of the powers, privileges, authorities, discretions, duties and responsibilities vested in or imposed on the WAPC by the Act or any other written law as the case requires.

Resolution under section 16 of the Act (delegation)

On 19 March 2020, pursuant to section 16 of the Act, the WAPC RESOLVED –

- A. TO DELEGATE to local governments, and to members and officers of those local governments, its powers and functions under section 15 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985* as set out in clause 1 of the Schedule, within their respective districts, subject to the conditions set out in clause 23 of Schedule 1;
- B. TO DELEGATE to local governments and to members and officers of those local governments, its powers and functions under sections 21 and 22 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985* as set out in clause 2 of Schedule 1, within their respective districts, subject to the conditions set out in clause 3 of Schedule 1;
- C. TO AMEND “Del 2020/01 – Powers of Local Governments” to give effect to its resolution and to publish an updated, consolidated instrument.

SAM FAGAN, Secretary,
Western Australian Planning Commission.



Schedule 1

1. Applications made under section 15 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*

Power to determine applications under section 15 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*, except those applications that –

- a) propose the creation of a vacant lot;
- b) propose vacant air stratas in multi-tiered strata scheme developments;
- c) propose the creation or postponement of a leasehold scheme;
- d) propose a type 1 (a) subdivision or a type 2 subdivision (as defined in section 3 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*);
- e) in the opinion of the WAPC as notified to the relevant local government in writing, or in the opinion of the relevant local government as notified to the WAPC in writing, relate to –

- i. a type of development; and/or
- ii. land within an area,

which is of state or regional significance, or in respect of which the WAPC has determined is otherwise in the public interest for the WAPC to determine the application.

2. Applications under sections 21 and 22 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*

Power to determine applications under –

- (a) section 21 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*;
- (b) section 22 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985* where the amendment or repeal of scheme by-laws requires the approval of the WAPC.

3. Reporting requirements

A local government that exercises the power referred to in clause 1 and/or clause 2 is to provide WAPC with data on all applications determined under this Instrument of Delegation. This must be provided at the conclusion of each financial year in the format prescribed by the WAPC.

Delegator	Council
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Statutory Services Manager Planning & Environment



CE-138 <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> Appointments	
Date of adoption	9 August 2011
Function delegated	<p>1. That pursuant to the provisions of Section 48 of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>, Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the performance of its functions under the Act as detailed in ATTACHMENT 3 entitled "Delegations to Chief Executive Officer under the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>";</p> <p>2. That pursuant to Section 59(3) and 59A of the <i>Bushfires Act 1954</i> the Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management, Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management and any person appointed to the position of Community Safety Ranger, Fire Protection Officer and Fire Hazard Inspection Officer are appointed to consider allegations of offences alleged to have been committed against the Act in the Shire of Mundaring and if the delegate thinks fit to institute and carry on proceedings in the name of the Shire of Mundaring against any person alleged to have committed those offences;</p> <p>3. That pursuant to Section 17(10) of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> the Shire President and Chief Bush Fire Control Officer jointly are delegated to:</p> <p>(A) Vary the prohibited burning times in the whole of, or part of the Shire of Mundaring by shortening, extending, suspending, reimposing a period of prohibited burning times or by imposing a further period of prohibited burning times.</p> <p>(B) Rescind or modify the variation upon receipt of a notice by the Shire of Mundaring from the Minister directing the Shire to rescind or modify such variation.</p>
Statutory power delegated	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> s. 48, s. 17 and s. 18
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	As specified above: Chief Executive Officer Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Community Safety Rangers Fire Protection Officers Fire Hazard Inspection Officers



	Shire President & Chief Bush Fire Control Officer jointly
Statutory power to sub-delegate	No statutory power to sub-delegate is provided in the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	<i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> <i>Bush Fires Regulations 1954</i> <i>Bush Fires (Infringements) Regulations 1978</i>

CE-138 Attachment 3

Delegations to the CEO under the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> and the <i>Bush Fires Regulations 1954</i>	
Section 13 (4)	Authorise bush fire liaison officer or another person to take control of all operations in relation to a fire.
Section 18 (5)	Declare and vary restricted burning times and conditions.
Section 18 (10A)	Declare when and by whom bush may be burnt.
Section 18 (10B)	Determine date by which applications to set fire to bush are to be submitted and allocate day or days on which burning may take place.
Section 18 (10C)	Vary the notice required in relation to burning permitted under 10B.
Section 22 (6)	Arrange with the occupier of exempt land and the occupier of land adjoining exempt land to co-operate in burning firebreaks on the respective lands.
Section 22 (7)	Specify the dimensions of firebreaks required in association with burning to be conducted as per s. 22 (6).
Section 23 (1) (b)	During prohibited burning times permit the owner or occupier of land to burn bush on a road reserve adjoining his land or to burn bush on any of his land that is grass land, for the purpose of protecting pasture or crop growing on his land from damage by fire.
Section 24F (2) (b) (ii)	Give written permission during limited burning times to burn garden refuse in an incinerator where there is no inflammable material within 2 metres of the incinerator, a person is present until the fire is extinguished and when the fire is no longer required, it is completely extinguished by the application of water or earth.
Section 24G (2)	Prohibit or restrict the burning of garden refuse by notice published in the Gazette and a newspaper circulating in the district.



Section 24G (5)	Vary or cancel a notice issued under 24G (2).
Section 25 (1) (a)	Approve in writing the lighting of a fire for the purpose of camping or cooking at a time when the fire danger is catastrophic, extreme, severe or very high.
Section 25 (1) (b)	Approve the lighting of a fire in the restricted or prohibited burning times for the conversion of bush into charcoal or in or about a lime kiln.
Section 25 (1a)	Prohibit the lighting of fires in the open air for the purpose of camping or cooking during the prohibited burning times by notice published in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the district.
Section 25A (5)	Notwithstanding any provision of this section issue a notice in writing on a person to whom a ministerial exemption has been granted prohibiting that person from lighting a fire to which the exemption relates.
Section 27 (2)	Permit the use of tractors the exhaust pipes of which are not vertical, so long as the other requirements specified in respect of a tractor in paragraph a) of subsection (1) and any notice under subsection (3) are complied with.
Section 27 (3)	Prohibit the operation of any tractor or self-propelled harvester that is not equipped with a fire extinguisher, by notice in a newspaper circulating in the district and by radio broadcast with coverage to the district and by display of such notice in prominent positions in the district.
Section 27 (4)	Vary or cancel a notice issued as per subsection (3).
Section 28 (5)	Recover the expenses of the local government incurred in extinguishing a fire where the occupier of the land on which the fire is situated has failed to take measures to extinguish it.
Section 33 (1)	Give notice to an owner or occupier of land by publishing a notice in the Government Gazette and in a newspaper circulating in the district requiring the installation and maintenance of fire breaks and to take other specified actions in relation to anything on the land which is conducive to the outbreak of a bush fire or the spread or extension of a bush fire.
Section 33 (4)	Direct a bush fire control officer, or any officer of the local government with required workmen or contractors to enter upon the land of an owner or occupier who fails or neglects to comply with the notice issued as per subsection (1) to carry out the works required.

Section 33 (5)	Ascertain and fix the amount of any costs incurred in carrying out works as per (4) and recover same in a court of competent jurisdiction as a debt due from the owner.
Section 33 (6)	At the request of the owner or occupier of land within its district, carry out on the land, at the expense of the owner or occupier, any works for the removal or abatement of a fire danger, and recover the amount of the expense, if not paid on demand, from the owner or occupier in a court of competent jurisdiction.
Section 38 (1) and (2A)	Appoint such persons as considered necessary to be bush fire control officers including a Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and a Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and cause notice of such appointments to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in the district.
Section 38 (5A)	Issue directions to a bush fire control officer or to an officer of a bush fire brigade to burn, subject to the provisions of the Act, bush on, or at the margins of, streets, roads, and ways, under the care, control and management of the Shire.
Section 38 (8) and (9)	Subject to DFES declaring the Shire an approved local government, appoint such numbers of senior bush fire control officers to the office of fire weather officer and define the part of the district in which each fire weather officer may exercise the powers conferred by the Act.
Section 38 (10)	Appoint one or more persons to be deputies of a fire weather officer appointed under (8) and (9).
Section 46	Prohibit or postpone the lighting of a fire where it is considered that the fire if lit would be or become a source of danger by escaping from the land on which it is proposed to be lit.
Regulation 20	Prohibit the issue of a permit to burn subterranean clover if such burning may be a source of danger to lands adjoining the land on which the proposed burning is to take place.

CE-139 <i>Building Act 2011 - Authorised Persons</i>	
Date of adoption	13 December 2011
Function delegated	Authority to 1. Designate an employee as an authorised person under s. 96(3) of the <i>Building Act 2011</i> ; and 2. Limit the powers of an authorised person by imposing conditions on a person's instrument of designation or by written notice and at any time revoke or vary such condition or notice.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 96(3) Authorised persons s. 99 Limitation on powers of authorised person
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 127 Delegation: special permit authorities and local governments
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 127(6A) Delegation: special permit authorities and local governments – power to sub-delegate is limited to CEO's
CEO's sub-delegation to	n/a
Compliance links	<i>Building Act 2011</i> <i>Building Regulations 2012</i> National Construction Code
Conditions	CEO to be satisfied that authorised person is suitably qualified in accordance with s. 5.36(3) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .



CE-140 <i>Building Act 2011 – Permits, Certificates, Orders and Records</i>	
Date of adoption	13 December 2011
Function delegated	Authority for suitably qualified persons who, in the opinion of the Chief Executive Officer have the qualifications to undertake the roles and functions of a building surveyor, to administer <i>Building Act 2011</i> sections: 20 - Grant of building permit 21 - Grant of demolition permit 22 - Further grounds for not granting an application 27 - Conditions imposed by permit authority 55 - Occupancy permits and building approval certificates, further information 58 - Grant of occupancy permit, building approval certificate 62 - Conditions imposed by permit authority 65 - Extension of period of duration 110 - Building orders 117 - Revocation of building order 118 - Permit authority may give effect to building order if non-compliance; and 131 - Inspection, copies of building records.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 20, 21, 22, 27, 55, 58, 62, 65, 110, 117, 118 and 131
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 127 Delegation: special permit authorities and local governments
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Building Act 2011</i> s. 127(6A) Delegation: special permit authorities and local governments – power to sub-delegate is limited to CEO's
CEO's sub-delegation to	Manager Building and Health Senior Building Surveyor Building Surveyor
Compliance links	<i>Building Act 2011</i> <i>Building Regulations 2012</i> National Construction Code
Conditions	Nil.



CE-141 Appointment of Authorised Officers – <i>Public Health Act 2016</i>	
Date of adoption	13 December 2016
Function delegated	Authority to designate a person or class of persons as Authorised Officers for the purpose of fulfilling prescribed functions of the <i>Public Health Act 2016</i> . Authority to issue Certificates of Authority to persons designated as Authorised Officers.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Public Health Act 2016</i> s. 24 Designation of authorised officers s. 30 Certificates of authority
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Public Health Act 2016</i> s. 21 Enforcement agency may delegate
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	N/A
CEO's sub-delegation to	N/A
Compliance links	N/A
Conditions	1. The CEO may, at his discretion, refer any matter to Council for decision.



CE-142 <i>Food Act 2008</i>	
Date of adoption	9 October 2012
Function delegated	<p>That Council:</p> <p>1. Delegates to the Chief Executive Officer the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Appointment of authorised officers under s. 122 of the Act; · Issue of certificates of authority under s. 123 of the Act; · Appointment of designated officers under s. 126(2), (6) and (7) of the Act to issue, extend time for payment or withdraw infringement notices. <p>2. Delegates to the Director Statutory Services and the Manager Building and Health the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issue a prohibition order, issue a certificate of clearance; provide written notification not to issue a certificate of clearance approval under s. 65, 66 and 67 of the Act. <p>3. Delegates to the Director Statutory Services, the Manager Building and Health and the Senior Environmental Health Officer the following powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant, apply conditions, refuse, vary or cancel registration of a food business under s. 110 and 112 of the Act.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Food Act 2008</i> s. 65, 66, 67, 110 and 112 s. 122, 123 and 126
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Food Act 2008 s. 118</i>
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	As specified above: Chief Executive Officer Director Statutory Services Manager Building and Health Senior Environmental Health Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	Nil. The <i>Food Regulations 2009</i> do not provide the power to sub-delegate.
CEO's sub-delegation to	n/a
Compliance links	<i>Food Act 2008</i> and <i>Food Regulations 2009</i>



CE-143 <i>Cat Act 2011</i>	
Date of adoption	12 November 2013
Function delegated	Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer all the powers and duties of the local government under the <i>Cat Act 2011</i> , except the power to deal with an objection (s. 70).
Statutory power delegated	<i>Cat Act 2011</i> – refer to Schedule A
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Cat Act 2011</i> s. 44
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Cat Act 2011</i> s. 45
CEO's sub-delegation to	refer to Schedule A
Compliance links	<i>Cat Act 2011</i> <i>Cat Regulations 2012</i> Shire of Mundaring "Keeping of Cats" Local Law
Conditions	Nil

CE-143: Schedule A

On-delegation reference	Function	Delegated to	On-delegated to
SS - 48	<i>Cat Act 2011 – s. 9</i> Refuse to grant or refuse to renew a cat registration.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 51	<i>Cat Act 2011 – s. 10(b)</i> Cancel the registration of a cat where the cat owner has been convicted of offences as prescribed.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 54	<i>Cat Act 2011 – s. 13</i> On refusal to grant or renew a registration of a cat or cancel a registration of a cat, notify the owner within seven (7) days of making the decision.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 55	<i>Cat Act 2011 – s. 26</i> Issue a cat control notice.	CEO	Community Safety Ranger Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management



			Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 56	Cat Act 2011 – s. 37(1) & (2) Cat Regulations 2012 – r. 22 Grant, refuse to grant, renew or refuse to renew an application to breed cats.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 57	Cat Act 2011 – s. 37(3) & (4) Require an applicant to provide documents or information, within a specified time of not more than 21 days, required to determine a breeder application and require the applicant to verify the information by statutory declaration.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 58	Cat Act 2011 – s. 38 Cancel an approval to breed.	CEO	Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 59	Cat Act 2011 – s. 39 Issue a certificate to an approved breeder.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 60	Cat Act 2011 – s. 40 Notify the applicant of the decision to approve or decline the registration or approve or decline the breeder's application in writing within seven (7) days of making the decision.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 61	Cat Act 2011 – s. 49(3) Recover the costs associated with the destruction of a cat in a court of competent jurisdiction.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety and Emergency Management Director Statutory Services

CE-144 Appointment of Authorised and Approved Officers – Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992	
Date of adoption	14 February 2017
Function delegated	Authority to appoint persons or classes of persons as Authorised or Approved Officers for the purpose of issuing and managing infringement notices under the <i>Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992</i> .
Statutory power delegated	<i>Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992</i> reg. 15D(5) – Infringement notices
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Health (Asbestos) Regulations 1992</i> reg. 15D(7)
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	N/A
CEO's sub-delegation to	N/A
Compliance links	N/A
Conditions	Nil



CE-147 Dog Act 1976	
Date of adoption	28 January 2014
Function delegated	Council delegates to the Chief Executive Officer all the powers and duties of the local government under the <i>Dog Act 1976</i> and authorises the Chief Executive Officer to further delegate the powers and duties.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> <i>Dog Regulations 2013</i>
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> s. 10AA Delegation of local government powers and duties
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> s. 10AA(3)
CEO's sub-delegation to	refer to Schedule A
Compliance links	<i>Dog Act 1976</i> <i>Dog Regulations 2013</i>
Conditions	Nil

CE-147: Schedule A

On-delegation reference	Function	Delegated to	On-delegated to
SS - 62	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 10A</i> Pay and direct a vet to sterilise a dog owned by an eligible person.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 63	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 11</i> Appoint person(s) to administer dog management facilities.	CEO	Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 65	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 15</i> Discount or waive the registration fee for an individual dog or any class of dogs, except dangerous dogs.	CEO	No sub-delegation
SS – 66	<i>Dog Act 1976 – s. 16</i> Refuse to effect, refuse to renew, cancel a dog	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management



	registration in the prescribed circumstances and notify the applicant forthwith of the grounds upon which the decision was made. .		Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 68	Dog Act 1976 – s. 17A If no application for registration has been made, give written notice to the owner that a dog cannot be registered because of any of the prescribed reasons and inform the owner of right of review.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 70	Dog Act 1976 – s. 26(3) Grant an exemption from the limit imposed on the number of dogs that can be kept.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 71	Dog Act 1976 – s. 27 Grant or cancel a kennel licence.	CEO	Coordinator Community Safety and Emergency Management Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management Director Statutory Services
SS – 72	Dog Act 1976 – s. 33H Revoke a dangerous dog declaration or proposal to destroy a dangerous dog.	CEO	Director Statutory Services



CE-148 Serving Notices Requiring Certain Things to be Done by Owner or Occupier of Land	
Date of adoption	28 January 2014
Function delegated	<p>The Chief Executive Officer is delegated the power to issue a notice in writing relating to the land requiring the person to do anything specified in Schedule 3.1, Division 1 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> or for the purpose of remedying or mitigating the effects of any offence prescribed in Schedule 3.1, Division 2 including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prevent water from dripping or running from a building; 2. placing a number on a property to indicate an address; 3. repair a public thoroughfare; 4. ensure that land that adjoins a public thoroughfare is suitably enclosed; 5. ensure unsightly land is enclosed; 5A. ensure overgrown vegetation, rubbish or disused material is removed from land; 6. take measures to prevent movement of sand, rocks etc; 7. ensure that land adjoining a public thoroughfare is not overgrown; 8. removing a tree or part that is obstructing a thoroughfare; 9. ensuring that a tree that endangers any person is made safe (dangerous tree); 10. taking specified measures to prevent damage to the public or property from cyclonic activity; 11. remove bees that are a danger or a nuisance; 12. ensure that unsightly, dilapidated or dangerous fence is modified or repaired; 13. take measures to prevent artificial light or other light being omitted or reflected to remove a nuisance; 14. make safe anything that is obstructing a private thoroughfare.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i>



	s. 3.25 Notices requiring certain things to be done by owner or occupier of land
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Infrastructure Services Director Statutory Services Director Corporate Services Director Strategic and Community Services
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> Schedule 3.1 Powers under notices to owners or occupiers of land
Conditions	Nil



CE-149 Additional Powers When Notice is Given to the Owner or Occupier of Land Under Section 3.25	
Date of adoption	28 January 2014
Function delegated	The Chief Executive Officer is delegated the power to do anything considered necessary to achieve, so far as is practicable, the purpose for which a notice under section 3.25 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> was given, including recovering the cost of anything done as a debt due from the person who failed to comply with the notice.
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.26 Additional powers when notices given
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Chief Executive Officer
Statutory power to sub-delegate	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.44 CEO may delegate some powers and duties to other employees
CEO's sub-delegation to	Director Infrastructure Services Director Statutory Services Director Corporate Services Director Strategic and Community Services
Compliance links	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 3.25 Notices requiring certain things to be done by owner or occupier of land Schedule 3.1 Powers under notices to owners or occupiers of land
Conditions	Nil



Delegations to Committees of Council

COM-46 Annual Meeting with Auditor	
Date of adoption	26 September 2006
Function delegated	That Council delegates authority to the Audit and Risk Committee to meet with the auditor of the Shire of Mundaring at least once in every year to satisfy the requirement of <i>s. 7.12A(2) of the Local Government Act 1995</i> .
Statutory power delegated	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 7.12A(2) Duties of local government with respect to audits
Statutory power of delegation	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> s. 5.16 Delegation of some powers and duties to certain committees s. 7.1B Delegation of some powers and duties to audit committees
Delegator	Council of the Shire of Mundaring
Delegate	Audit and Risk Committee
Statutory power to sub-delegate	Nil
CEO's sub-delegation to	Nil
Compliance links	Department of Local Government and Communities Operational Guideline No. 9 – Audit in Local Government
Conditions	Nil. Sub-delegation is prohibited by s. 7.1B



10.7 Western Australia Local Government Association - Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report

File Code	OR.IGR 3/1
Author	Elizabeth Nicholls, Governance Co-ordinator
Senior Employee	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. WALGA Best Practice Governance Review - Governance Model for Feedback Summary ↓2. WALGA Best Practice Governance Review - Steering Committee Stage Three Final Report ↓

SUMMARY

The Western Australian Local Government Association's (WALGA) State Council resolved to engage with members regarding proposed changes to their governance model as outlined in the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review – Governance Model for Feedback Summary (**Attachment 1**).

The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure are provided to Council members as background information, which will inform formal consideration at WALGA's State Council.

BACKGROUND

In October 2022, the Shire was requested to provide feedback to WALGA on a number of options being considered to ensure that their governance model is “*contemporary, agile and maximises engagement with members*”.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held 13 December 2022 (C18.12.22) it was resolved:

That Council advise the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) by 23 December 2022 that the ranking in order of preference for the options provided for the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review, are:

1. *Option 3: Board, amalgamated zones*
2. *Option 2: Board, regional bodies*
3. *Option 4: Member elected board, regional groups*
4. *Option 1: Two tier model, existing zones*
5. *Option 5: Current model*

Information provided by WALGA regarding the review is included in the Steering Committee Stage Three Final Report (**Attachment 2**) which provides:

Based on Councils' submissions to WALGA, the Current Model is the most preferred model based on first preferences but is also highly polarising. The Current Model received the highest allocation of first preferences, as well as the highest number of fifth preferences, and is consequently ranked third utilising the mean ranking approach...

Following the consultation process, the Steering Committee considered Council endorsed submissions... The Steering Committee agreed on a recommendation to State Council to endorse changes to WALGA's governance structure in line with a revised version of Model 1.

Under the revised Model 1, the current Zones and State Council will be retained. Following the election of delegates to State Council from Zones, State Council will meet to elect the President, Deputy President, and six Board Members (three from the metropolitan constituency and three from the country constituency) from amongst its members. The Board will be able to appoint up to three independent members.

The Board will have ultimate responsibility for the governance of WALGA, while State Council will have a significant role in policy development and advocacy priorities.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 9.58 of the *Local Government Act 1995* has provision for the Constitution of associations of local government

- (1) *The Western Australian Local Government Association ("WALGA") is constituted as a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal.*
- (2) *Proceedings may be taken by or against WALGA in its corporate name.*
- (3) *WALGA has the objects and functions set out in its constitution.*
- (4) *Subject to subsection (5), WALGA may, at any time, amend its constitution and, whenever it does, it is to forthwith —*
 - (a) *give to the Minister; and*
 - (b) *lodge with the Commissioner as defined in the Fair Trading Act 2010 section 6, a copy of the amendment to the constitution.*
- (5) *WALGA is not to change the objects for which it is constituted without the approval of the Minister.*
- (6) *Without limiting the generality of subsection (3), WALGA may —*
 - (a) *of its own motion, make representations and submissions to the Minister on any matter or thing relating to or affecting its members; and*
 - (b) *with the approval of the affected members, arrange contracts of insurance on behalf of all or any of its members for any purpose.*
- (7) *WALGA may do all things necessary or convenient to be done to enable it to achieve its objects and perform its functions.*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Information has not been included in the governance review regarding changes to costs for WALGA subscriptions which the Shire currently pays.

It is unclear whether there may be some small cost savings associated with the improved administrative arrangements proposed or if the additional members and the introduction of a Board to the governance structure may result in additional fees.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 4 - Governance

Objective 4.4 – High standard of governance and accountability

Strategy 4.4.3 – Risks are well managed

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Reputation: Failure to respond to the request for feedback from WALGA.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Unlikely	Minor	Low
Action / Strategy		
Provide a response to WALGA by Friday 21 April 2023.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

As the representative body for all Western Australia local governments it is important that WALGA is able to adapt to meeting changing legislative requirements, member needs and new technologies, to maximise its ongoing effectiveness and relevance; therefore the principle of the WALGA reform is supported.

Model 1 is a new option which could be considered a hybrid of options 1 and 3 previously presented, presumably reflecting feedback from members.

Option 3 was the Shire's preferred option at the December 2022 Ordinary Council Meeting.

However the requirement to obtain majority member support for a change means reform of the governance structure of the association is unlikely if all local governments remain fixed to their original preference.

There are some advantages to Model 1, including

- It is the option most likely to receive broad member support. Given the feedback provided to WALGA to date, this proposal is likely to address the concerns and suggestions provided by member Councils.
- Accountability. The proposal provides for a high standard of accountability to all levels of the governance structure.

There are also some disadvantages to Model 1, including:

- The proposal appears to reflect a similar structure as the current model with the addition of a Board above State Council. This might result in less efficiency due to

the requirement to service the Board in addition to the current structure. The Board would require consensus for decision making as well as a requirement to consult with State Council. Additionally, there will still be information received from Zones as well as the option for delegated committees, policy teams and policy forums. The proposal therefore may not streamline the current governance processes, which was understood to be the intent of the review.

- Additional costs. Remuneration to all board members, including independent board members, will be paid in accordance with industry standards. This may result in the payment of up to 10 additional people compared to the current model.
- Diminishing the role of State Council. The proposal provides that the main focus of State Council will be policy and advocacy with the ultimate decision making powers resting with the Board. Given eight of the members of State Council will also be appointed to the Board, and that the Board will be required to consult with State Council, this additional layer appears unnecessary.

Feedback received after 31 March 2023 but before 21 April 2023 in response to the Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report will be provided directly to WALGA State Council.

It is noted that there will be a final opportunity to support or reject any change when the necessary amendments to the constitution are presented at WALGA's 2023 Annual General Meeting, assuming the proposal receives State Council support.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION		C12.04.23	
RECOMMENDATION			
Moved by	Cr Daw	Seconded by	Cr Jeans

That Council:

1. Notes the proposed changes to the Western Australian Local Government Association's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report;
2. Reiterates that the Shire's preferred option for the Western Australian Local Government Association Best Practice Governance Review is Option 3 (board, amalgamated zones) as outlined in the Background Paper received in November 2022; and
3. Advises the Western Australian Local Government Association State Council of the above by 21 April 2023.

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

WALGA BEST PRACTICE GOVERNANCE REVIEW



GOVERNANCE MODEL FOR FEEDBACK

MARCH 2023






GOVERNANCE MODEL FOR FEEDBACK

The Steering Committee recommends to State Council that WALGA's governance model be amended in accordance with the roles and processes outlined below, broadly in accordance with Model 1.

Model 1 – Details

Overview

GOVERNANCE BODY	STRUCTURE	ROLE
 <p>BOARD</p>	<p>Up to 11 Board members, comprising 8 representative members being the President, the Deputy President and 6 members elected from and by State Council (3 metropolitan, 3 country). The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors. The Board would meet 6 times per year.</p>	<p>The Board will be responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy/strategic planning, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities and employment of the CEO. The Board can form Committees, which would have responsibility for specific functions, such as policy development, the Honours Program, and selection and nominations to Boards and Committees. The Board is required to consult with State Council on the Strategic Plan and the annual State Budget submission. The Board will follow a consensus decision-making process.</p>
 <p>STATE COUNCIL</p>	<p>24 State Council members plus the President. State Councillors are elected from and by the Zones (12 from Metropolitan Zones, 12 from Country Zones). State Council would meet at least 3 times per year.</p>	<p>The role of the State Council will be to elect the President, Deputy President and members to the Board, initiate and contribute to policy positions and advocacy for input into the Board, and to liaise with Zones and Members on policy and advocacy. State Council meetings will make decisions by way of voting.</p>
 <p>ZONES</p>	<p>5 Metropolitan Zones, 12 Country Zones, meeting at least 3 times per year.</p>	<p>Zones would have the same role as they currently do, that is to raise policy issues, elect representatives to the State Council, provide guidance to their State Council representative, regional cooperation and information sharing, and undertake regional advocacy and projects as directed by the Zone.</p>

The table above provides an overview of the proposed governance model including the role of each governance layer.

The model has several inherent accountabilities. The President, Deputy President and Board Members are elected from and by the State Council every two years, providing State Council with significant input into the membership of the board. Further, eight members of State Council will occupy dual roles as State Councillors and Board Members, solidifying the link between State Council and the Board.

The Board will be required to consult with State Council in regards to the corporate strategy or strategic plan, and the annual State Budget submission, and will be able to consult with State Council on any other matter.

Roles and Responsibilities

President

State Council shall elect a President from amongst its members. The President is the Chair and an exofficio (non-voting) member of State Council, and is the Chair and voting member of the Board. The President's role is a key one within the Association. The President is considered both the "lead" State Councillor and Board member, utilising experience, skills and leadership abilities to facilitate governance processes.

The responsibilities of the President are to:

- Represent and advocate the decisions of the Board
- Act as a link between meetings with the Board, State Council and Association management
- Be the interface of WALGA with external stakeholders
- Act as a spokesperson as required, in consultation with the CEO
- Develop an effective working relationship with the CEO
- Ensure timely and accurate dissemination of information to the Board
- Establish Working Groups, as required, to report directly to the Board

The President will be limited to serving two terms, up to a total of four years, as is currently the case.

Deputy President

The Deputy President is elected by State Council to ensure continuity of operation for the Association in the event that the President is either absent or temporarily unable to fulfil their responsibilities. In such circumstances, the Deputy President shall undertake the roles and responsibilities of the President. The Deputy President in exercising the roles and responsibilities of the President is to be mindful that the position is temporary and to work within the current direction of the Association.

The Deputy President is a Board Member and a State Councillor, and has responsibilities in those roles.

The Deputy President will be elected from the alternate constituency to the President and will be limited to serving two terms, up to a total of four years, as is currently the case.

Board

The Board is the governing board of WALGA, responsible for all matters relating to the management and affairs of the Association, including:

- Primarily, to govern the successful operation of the Association through the CEO and senior management
- Monitoring financial management, including the annual budget and annual subscriptions
- At least once a year, causing the Association's accounts to be audited by a person or persons appointed by the Board
- Monitoring and controlling compliance and organisational performance
- Ensuring effective identification, assessment and management of risk
- Developing, evaluation and succession of the Chief Executive Officer
- Approving the use of the common seal of the Association
- Strategy and strategic planning, subject to consulting with State Council
- Policy development (involving State Council) and endorsement
- Endorsement of advocacy priorities
- Endorsement of the annual State Budget submission, subject to consultation with State Council
- Ensuring effective communication and liaison with Members and stakeholders

- Constitutional amendments for consideration by members at a general meeting
- Expulsion of Ordinary and Associate members
- Awarding Local Government Honours (delegated to the Honours Panel)
- Overseeing the nomination and selection process for Local Government vacancies on Boards and Committees (delegated to the Selection Committee)

All Board Members, including independent members, will be limited to four terms in the role, up to a total of eight years, and remuneration will be paid to Board Members in accordance with industry standards and the workload of the role.

The responsibilities of the Board do not include responsibility for running the business of the Association. All operation matters remain the responsibility of the CEO.

The Board may from time to time as it deems necessary or expedient appoint, delegate or refer to any person or committee any of its powers, duties and functions as it thinks fit, except the powers to:

- Acquire, hold and dispose of real property
- Borrow money
- Set subscriptions levels

Independent Board Members

The Board may choose to appoint up to three independent members, who will have the duties and obligations of a Board Member. At their first meeting following election by State Council, the Board will complete skills and diversity matrices and determine:

- skills or diversity gaps to be filled by independent members; and
- the process for filling the positions, such as through the Selection Committee process.

Independent Board Member positions may be filled by Elected Members, but State Councillors will not be eligible to be appointed as Independent Board Members.

State Council

State Council is responsible for:

- Initiating, reviewing, and contributing to policy positions for consideration by the Board
- Advocacy to the Board, and contributing to advocacy priorities
- Liaising with Zones and Members on policy and advocacy
- Giving consideration to any direction or decision made by members at an AGM
- Input into the focus and contents of WALGA's annual State Budget submission
- Contributing to WALGA's Strategic Plan and Corporate Strategy

The main focus of State Council is policy and advocacy for the Association, with the ultimate decision-making powers resting with the Board. Therefore, all decisions of State Council require endorsement by the Board to become a WALGA policy or advocacy position.

State Councillors will not be term limited, and will continue to receive an annual allowance.

Zones

As per current arrangements, there will be five metropolitan and 12 country Zones. Each member of a Zone shall be entitled to be represented by a delegate or delegates elected or appointed by the member to represent its interests. Zones shall determine the number of delegates to which each member is entitled to be represented by on the Zone.

The function of each Zone shall be:

- Electing a representative(s) and deputy representative(s) to State Council;
- Providing guidance to the representative(s) on State Council;
- Raising policy matters for State Council;
- Regional cooperation and information sharing; and
- Any other functions deemed appropriate by the members of the Zone.

WALGA will continue to provide secretariat services for Zones as requested.

Delegated Committees, Policy Teams and Policy Forums

Delegated Committees

With the establishment of the Board, the Finance & Services Committee and the CEO Performance Review Committee will be abolished, with these responsibilities to be undertaken by the Board. The positions on the Honours Panel and Selection Committee currently reserved for State Councillors will be changed to Board positions. The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) will remain unchanged.

Policy Teams

The Board will have the power to form Policy Teams to assist in policy development. Membership of the Policy Teams will be drawn from State Council.

Local Government House Trust (LGHT)

Under current arrangements, two State Councillors serve on the LGHT Board of Management. These positions will be changed to Board Member positions.

Working Groups

The President will have the power to form Working Groups as and when needed.

Election Process

Board Members

The President and the Deputy President are elected by State Council. The additional six representative members are elected by and from the State Council, with three from the metropolitan constituency and three from the country constituency. The Board can also appoint up to three independent, skills or constituency members. The appointment process for independent member positions will be decided by the Board.

State Councillors

State Council members are elected by and from the Zones (12 from the metropolitan Zones, 12 from the country Zones). State Council then elect a President (ex-officio, non-voting member) and a Deputy President from its members. An additional State Council member is then elected by and from the President's Zone. The constitutional requirements for the President to alternate between the metropolitan and country constituencies, and for the President and Deputy President to represent different constituencies, will continue.

Zone Delegates

Zone delegates would be elected by Councils to the Zone as per current practice.

All the above positions will be elected for two-year terms.

Administrative Arrangements

Publication of Agendas and Minutes

State Council Agendas and Minutes will continue to be distributed to all Members and published on the WALGA website (with confidential content redacted). Agendas and Minutes from Policy Team, Working Group and Delegated Committee meetings will be provided to State Council and the Board. Board Agendas and Minutes will be provided to State Council.

Observers at Meetings

State Council meetings and Board meetings will continue to be open to observers from any Member Local Government (senior officers and Elected Members). The Board will have the ability to meet behind closed doors to deal with confidential matters.

Consultation Process

State Council will continue to consider Zone feedback in relation to State Council Agenda items along with the composite recommendations in the Revised Agenda. Similarly, State Council resolutions and feedback will be incorporated into the Board Agenda for consideration.

Zone Secretariat Support

The WALGA secretariat will continue to provide secretariat support for Zones if requested.

Recommendation to State Council

The Steering Committee put forward the recommendation below to State Council for consideration at its meeting on 1 March 2023.

The revised Model 1, as outlined above, aligns with:

- The principles endorsed by State Council and WALGA's members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting
- Member feedback, as detailed in this report, and
- The independent research undertaken by Ipsos.

The recommended amendments to the governance model aim to balance concerns regarding representation with a desire for change evident in Council endorsed submissions and in the research undertaken by Ipsos. Ultimately, the overarching goal of the Best Practice Governance Review is to ensure WALGA is well placed to deliver strong, clear, focused, and consistent policy positions, drive advocacy impact on behalf of the Local Government sector and embed agility and responsiveness.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. **The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received;**
2. **The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be endorsed;**
3. **Members be engaged on the detail of the model; and**
4. **Constitutional changes be developed for consideration at the July 2023 State Council meeting.**

State Council Decision

State Council, at their meeting on 1 March 2023, considered the Steering Committee's Final Report and recommendation, and resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION

That:

1. **The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received;**
2. **The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be noted;**
3. **Members be engaged on the detail of the model and a Final Report be presented to the May 2023 State Council meeting for consideration;**
4. **Any recommendation to the 2023 AGM include Option 5 as the Current Model and Option 1 as an alternative to the Current Model; and**
5. **Subject to points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council.**

Next Steps

As per point 3 of State Council's 1 March resolution, feedback is sought from Members in relation to the proposed model. Feedback can be provided to associationgovernance@walga.asn.au.

An Agenda item will be included in the May State Council Agenda for consideration by Zones and State Council. Feedback received by Friday, 31 March will be included in the Agenda item for Zone meetings. Feedback received after 31 March, but before Friday, 21 April, will be provided to State Council directly.

After consideration by State Council at the May meeting, the Best Practice Governance Review will move into Stage 4, the drafting of governance documents.

Amendments to the Constitution will be developed to be considered by State Council at their July 2023 meeting, followed by WALGA's members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Significant Member engagement on the detail of the model, as outlined in this report, will be undertaken during this stage of the project, including correspondence and presentations to members.

WALGA BEST PRACTICE GOVERNANCE REVIEW



STEERING COMMITTEE STAGE THREE FINAL REPORT

MARCH 2023



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ABOUT WALGA

The Western Australian Local Government Association (**WALGA** or **the Association**) is the peak organisation for Local Government in Western Australia. The Association is an independent, membership-based group representing and supporting the work and interests of 137 mainland Local Governments in Western Australia, plus the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The Association provides an essential voice for 1,215 Elected Members, approximately 22,600 Local Government employees, and the 2.6 million constituents that they serve and represent. The Association also provides professional advice and offers services that provide financial benefits to Local Governments.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WALGA's State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review ("the Review" or "the Project") in March 2022 in response to member feedback, a legislative reform proposal to remove WALGA from being constituted under the Local Government Act 1995 (WA), and misalignment of governance documents following several reviews and amendments. The Review represents an opportunity to review WALGA's governance model to ensure WALGA is well placed to deliver strong, clear, focused, and consistent policy positions, drive advocacy impact on behalf of the Local Government sector and embed agility and responsiveness.

To undertake the Review, State Council appointed a Steering Committee in March 2022 led by the WALGA President, comprising State Council and Local Government sector representatives, and supported by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the WALGA secretariat. The Steering Committee has overseen the Project through to completion of this report, which represents a significant milestone in stage three of the five-stage Project.

The Steering Committee undertook three key pieces of background work to support the consultation process, which were included in a Background Paper provided to WALGA's Members and included in this report as **Appendix 1**.

Firstly, the Steering Committee reviewed governance arrangements of Local Government Associations across Australia and New Zealand and found that WALGA's State Council of 25 members is larger than boards of all other Local Government Associations, that all other Presidents of Local Government Associations are elected directly by the membership, and that most Local Government Associations are governed by a representative board, with board members elected from geographic groupings of Local Governments.

Secondly, the Steering Committee reviewed five comparator organisations, selected due to their similarity to WALGA as membership-based peak body advocacy organisations:

- Australian Medical Association (AMA)**
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA)**
- Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME)**
- Australian Hotels Association (AHA) WA**
- Pharmacy Guild (PG), WA Branch**

The Steering Committee found that WALGA's State Council is larger than the board of all five comparator organisations, that three of the five comparator organisations utilise a two-tier governance structure, and that three of the five organisations have recently undergone structural change to sharpen the decision-making role of the board or to ensure the right voices contribute to policy development.

Thirdly, the Steering Committee developed Principles to guide the development and assessment of alternative model options. The 10 principles, across the three themes of Representative, Responsive, and Results Oriented, were endorsed by WALGA's State Council in August 2022 and almost universally endorsed by WALGA's members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting held in October 2022.

Following the endorsement of the Principles, the Steering Committee put forward five model options (including the Current Model) as part of a Consultation Paper for feedback from WALGA's Members:

Model 1, Two Tier Model, Existing Zones – A two tier model utilising the existing Zones, whereby delegates would be elected from the Zones to a Policy Council (similar to the current State Council), and then a Board with overall governance responsibility would be elected from State Council.

Model 2, Board, Regional Bodies – Four metropolitan and four country regional bodies would be formed, with each electing two members to a Board.

Model 3, Board, Amalgamated Zones – Zones in the country would be amalgamated to form six country Zones. The Peel Zone would become part of the metropolitan constituency and the five existing metropolitan Zones would remain unchanged. The 12 Zones would then each elect a Board Member.

Model 4, Member Elected Board, Regional Groups – Zones would be abolished and a Board would be elected directly by members at an AGM, with four members elected by and from country Local Governments and four members elected by and from metropolitan Local Governments.

Model 5, Current Model – The 12 country Zones and five metropolitan Zones would continue to elect 12 country and 12 metropolitan members to State Council, which would continue as WALGA's governing body.

The Consultation Paper, included in this report as **Appendix 2**, was distributed to all Local Governments on 24 October 2022 with feedback requested by 23 December 2022. As part of the consultation process, briefings were provided to Councils, Zones, Local Government Chief Executive Officers, and Elected Members on the Review at presentations, Zone meetings and webinars during October, November, and December 2022. Concurrently, Ipsos was commissioned to undertake independent quantitative and qualitative research to collect feedback from Local Government Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers on the governance review, establish a perception benchmark, and collect comprehensive feedback on the proposed model options and determine a preference.

WALGA's members engaged with the consultation process and 99 provided a submission, representing 71 percent of WALGA's membership.

The Current Model received 35 first preferences (representing 38 percent of first preferences), and Model 1 received 33 first preferences (representing 36 percent of first preferences). A majority (62 percent) of first preferences were allocated in favour of change with the Current Model and Model 1 the two most strongly supported models.

Model 1 was the second most preferred model by first preferences and is the most preferred model utilising instant run-off and ranked mean methods of analysis. Ipsos conducted independent research on behalf of the Steering Committee and the full report is available as Appendix 3. Ipsos also concluded that Model 1 is the most preferred model based on their research.

Based on Councils' submissions to WALGA, the Current Model is the most preferred model based on first preferences but is also highly polarising. The Current Model received the highest allocation of first preferences, as well as the highest number of fifth preferences, and is consequently ranked third utilising the mean ranking approach. Ipsos's research also confirmed a high degree of polarisation in relation to the Current Model, and concluded that close to four in ten stakeholders would be upset if the Current Model remained.

Models 2, 3 and 4 received limited support from WALGA's members through the consultation process in terms of first preferences.

There is a strong preference for change among relatively larger Local Governments, and Metropolitan Local Governments, which suggests a risk of disengagement from these membership cohorts from the organisation if the governance model is not reformed. Conversely, proponents of Current Model, particularly relatively smaller Country Local Governments, are concerned about the perceived loss of representation if WALGA's governance model is reformed.

As the Project progresses into stages four and five, there are opportunities for further Member engagement and leadership with the Local Government sector. Ipsos's report, included as **Appendix 3**, provides guidance for future stages of the Project.

Following the consultation process, the Steering Committee considered Council endorsed submissions, and the supplementary research undertaken by Ipsos. The Steering Committee agreed on a recommendation to State Council to endorse changes to WALGA's governance structure in line with a revised version of Model 1.

Under the revised Model 1, the current Zones and State Council will be retained. Following the election of delegates to State Council from Zones, State Council will meet to elect the President, Deputy President, and six Board Members (three from the metropolitan constituency and three from the country constituency) from amongst its members. The Board will be able to appoint up to three independent members.

The Board will have ultimate responsibility for the governance of WALGA, while State Council will have a significant role in policy development and advocacy priorities.

Accountability is inherent in the model. The President, Deputy President and Board Members are elected from and by the State Council every two years, providing State Council with control over the membership of the Board. Further, eight members of State Council will occupy dual roles as State Councillors and Board Members, solidifying the link between State Council and the Board. The Board will be required to consult with State Council on WALGA's strategic plan and the annual State Budget submission.

The proposed governance model aligns with the governance principles endorsed by State Council and WALGA's members, the member feedback provided in the form of Council endorsed submissions, and the independent research undertaken by Ipsos. The recommended amendments to the governance model aim to balance concerns regarding representation with a desire for change evident in Council endorsed submissions and in the research undertaken by Ipsos. Ultimately, the overarching goal of the Best Practice Governance Review is to ensure WALGA is well placed to deliver strong, clear, focused, and consistent policy positions, drive advocacy impact on behalf of the Local Government sector and embed agility and responsiveness.

Following consideration by State Council, the project will move into stage 4, during which amendments to WALGA's Constitution will be drafted. Significant Member engagement, including correspondence and presentations, will be undertaken during this stage of the project.

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

WALGA's Corporate Strategy 2020-25 identified undertaking a Best Practice Governance Review as a key strategic priority.

State Council commissioned the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review ("the Review" or "the Project") in March 2022, with the aim of ensuring that WALGA's governance model is contemporary, agile, and maximises engagement with Members.

In general, periodic governance reviews allow organisations to re-examine their membership structure, constitution, board role, board composition, governance approach and policies. A sound governance model is necessary for WALGA's legitimacy with Members and other stakeholders as the principal Local Government sector peak body in WA. For WALGA to drive advocacy and member-centric service delivery, independence and transparency will become increasingly important factors to Members and external stakeholders.

For WALGA, the Review represents an opportunity to review and reshape the Association's governance model to ensure WALGA is well-placed to:

- Deliver strong, clear, focused, and consistent policy positions on strategic matters of the most importance to Local Governments in WA;
- Drive advocacy outcomes and impact on behalf of Local Government in WA, and the communities they serve; and
- Embed agility and responsiveness, ensuring Member concerns are heard, respected, and represented in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

Drivers for Change

There were several drivers for the Review.

Corporate Strategy

WALGA's Corporate Strategy 2020-2025 identifies the governance model as a key enabler of performance, with the following description:

We have contemporary governance and engagement models.

Member and Stakeholder Feedback

Member and stakeholder feedback from a range of sources over several years has highlighted dissatisfaction with the governance model. Specifically, feedback relates to:

- **Structure** – WALGA's governance structure is seen by Members and stakeholders as creating roadblocks, hindering decision-making, and holding WALGA back.
- **Responsiveness** – there is a perception among Members and stakeholders that WALGA's governance model is slow and bureaucratic in an environment that requires agility.
- **Prioritisation and focus** – Members and stakeholders acknowledge the challenges of developing unified Local Government policy positions and advocacy priorities given the diversity of Local Government sector interests.
- **Transparency and accountability** – feedback from Members and stakeholders suggests that WALGA should be more transparent about its decision-making processes.
- **Zones** – feedback from Members and stakeholders in relation to Zones and Zone meetings is mixed. A proportion of WALGA's membership believes that Zones are not as representative, strategic nor effective as they potentially could be.

Legislative Reforms

Legislative reforms could also impact WALGA's governance arrangements. The Minister for Local Government's reforms to the Local Government Act 1995 propose to remove WALGA from being constituted under the Local Government Act. Secondly, the Review of WA's Industrial Relations Act 1979 provides an opportunity for WALGA to be constituted as a registered organisation, which would enable WALGA to make applications in its own right on behalf of the sector.

Misalignment Between Governance Documents

Following several reviews and amendments, as summarised below, the Review also represents an opportunity to ensure alignment between WALGA's governance documentation. In addition, State Council resolved in September 2021 for amendments to the Constitution to be developed to deal with matters related to State Councillors' candidature for State or Federal elections.

Side Effects and Risks

At the outset of the Project, potential unintended side effects or risks were identified. These side effects or risks may come about as a result of conducting the Review itself and/or any subsequent changes to WALGA's governance structure. In particular:

- There is the potential for criticism from some members who may be satisfied with current arrangements, or who may question the need for the Review noting that a governance review was only recently undertaken in 2019.
- Historically, there have been challenges with transformational change at a governance level, as change of this nature would require strong support from State Council. Status quo bias at that level represents a risk to significant change.
- There is the potential for dissatisfaction from changes resulting from the Review, as is common with any transformation projects. A diversity of views from Members is to be expected: some Members will be seeking significant change, and others will be seeking minimal change.

Current WALGA Governance Documents

A core goal of the Project is to fundamentally review, and subsequently amend, WALGA's governance documentation to ensure consistency and alignment. The following documents form part of the Review:

- Association Constitution
- Corporate Governance Charter
- Corporate Strategy 2020-2025
- State Council Standing Orders
- State Council Code of Conduct

Previous Governance Reviews

Significant governance reviews have previously been undertaken by WALGA in 2011, 2015 and most recently in 2019. Constitutional changes were also made in 2018 and 2021, following decisions of State Council.

To varying degrees, these previous reviews have considered:

- the structure of State Council, including the equal representation of metropolitan and non-metropolitan members;
- the number of State Councillors and the representational nature of State Council;
- the role, number and structure of Zones;
- changes to Committees of State Council including their role, function, membership, and delegated decision-making authority;
- codification of existing conventions; and
- changes to the Constitution and Corporate Governance Charter to respond to changes in circumstances and legislation.

Previous reviews have resulted in changes to processes, documentation and the committee structure utilised by State Council to fulfil its responsibilities. The overarching structure and composition of State Council has not changed since the formation of WALGA as the single Local Government sector association in 2001.

2011 Review of Structure and Effectiveness of State Council and Zones

A Working Group was formed in late 2010 to undertake a review of the structure and effectiveness of WALGA's governance arrangements.

To guide the review, a discussion paper was prepared and distributed to the sector with submissions sought on the paper, as well as any other relevant matters.

The paper was structured around the following key subjects:

- current arrangements;
- strengths of current arrangements;
- weaknesses of current arrangements;
- options for change – structure; and
- options for change – effectiveness.

Following feedback from the sector, and consideration of the sector's feedback by the Working Group, an item was presented to State Council that resulted in the following outcomes:

- Endorsement of current arrangements with a set of responsibilities for the Forum of Co-Chairs to be developed (note the Forum of Co-Chairs no longer exists);
- WALGA to provide additional support to Zones to enhance their advocacy role, including:
 - Provide suggestions for guest speakers and topics for consideration by Zones;
 - Provide a consistent liaison officer when requested by Zones;
 - All Zones be offered a presentation providing an overview of WALGA and its advocacy and service functions following the election of Zone delegates every two years;
 - Zone Chairs to receive an induction on the role of the Zone Chair;
 - An item to be presented to all relevant Zones seeking endorsement for their Executive Officer to attend the bi-annual WALGA Zone Executive Officer meetings (note these meetings are no longer held).
- Development of a strategy to establish meetings between State Councillors and Members of Parliament;
- A change in State Council's calendar to move from six meetings per year to five; and
- A review of State Council sitting fees.

2015 Review of Key Governance Documents

A review of the following key governance documents was undertaken in 2015:

- Constitution
- Corporate Governance Charter
- Standing Orders

A discussion paper was produced for the 2015 review which was structured around the following three themes:

1. Review of documentation – a review of identified issues in the three documents listed above;
2. Technical drafting – correction of technical wording and alignment across the three documents listed above; and
3. Review of State Council and Zone processes and effectiveness.

The Constitution was amended to:

- add a clause requiring State Council to adopt Standing Orders that will apply to meetings of State Council;
- add a clause specifying that a State Councillor would be disqualified from serving on State Council if they were suspended by the Minister for Local Government;
- enforce a term limit on the President of two consecutive two-year terms, which existed at the time for the Deputy President; and
- explicitly state that the President does not have a casting vote if there is a tied vote in an office bearer election.

The Corporate Governance Charter was amended to:

- express the role of the Deputy President;
- clarify that the President of Local Government Professionals will have the opportunity to present a report at State Council meetings;
- insert a provision stating that State Council must resolve to consider an 'emerging issue' prior to it being considered;
- insert further information regarding the formation and operation of the Local Government House Trust; and
- add procedures for the management of committees with delegated powers including requirements for:
 - Terms of Reference;
 - membership and fixed two-year terms; and
 - the appointment process, which specifies that State Council will determine appointments of State Councillors and external representatives, and that State Council may use the Selection Committee for this purpose.

In addition, a complaints handling procedure was added to the State Councillor Code of Conduct.

2018 Constitutional Amendments

WALGA's Constitution was again amended in 2018. The amendments to the Constitution followed discussion at State Council Strategic Forums regarding:

1. Rotation of the office of the President between the metropolitan and country constituencies of State Council; and relatedly
2. The convention that the Deputy President will be from the alternate constituency to the President.

Historically, the two issues above had been managed by 'convention', but State Council requested the secretariat to investigate codifying the above in the WALGA Constitution.

This also enabled other amendments and clarifications to be made in response to changed legislation and to reflect established practice.

Specifically, WALGA's Constitution was amended to:

1. codify an existing convention that the President and Deputy President of WALGA would be drawn from opposite constituencies. That is, when the President is from the metropolitan constituency, the Deputy President would be from the country constituency and when the President is from the country constituency, the Deputy President would be from the metropolitan constituency;
2. codify an existing convention that the office of Presidency will be rotated between the metropolitan and country constituencies. That is, when a President leaves office, only State Councillors from the alternate constituency will be eligible to nominate for the office of President;
3. clarify that eligibility criteria relating to the disqualification of State Councillors also apply to ex-officio members of State Council;
4. ensure that members of State Council and/or Zone Delegates suspended by the Minister for Local Government under Part 8 of the Local Government Act 1995 are disqualified from State Council and/or from the Zone as appropriate. Previously, this provision referred to only one method of suspension by the Minister for Local Government; and
5. clarify that the President has a deliberative vote, and not a casting vote, in elections for President and Deputy President.

2019 State Council and Zone Structure and Process Working Group Recommendations

In March 2019, State Council established a Working Group to develop options to revise State Council's structure and processes. The Working Group met three times and considered outcomes of previous reviews, arrangements of other associations of Local Government, strengths and weaknesses of the current model and options for change. The final report, which included 10 recommendations, was finalised in August 2019.

State Council endorsed the Working Group's final report in September 2019, including four of the recommendations for immediate implementation. The final report was distributed to the sector for feedback, with the responses received from 14 Members being generally supportive of the recommendations. A number of Member Councils resolved in full support of all 10 of the Working Group's recommendations.

State Council endorsed the balance of the Working Group's recommendations in December 2020.

The key changes that came out of the recommendations were as follows:

1. To prepare and distribute an Elected Member Prospectus to all Member Local Governments and Elected Members following each Local Government election. The Prospectus will include important information about the role of WALGA, State Council and Zones. The aim of the Prospectus is to promote the role of Zone Delegates regionally and the role of State Councillors in leading advocacy and policy development on behalf of the WA Local Government sector.
2. To establish a CEO Performance Review Committee, to be chaired by the President and to meet at least once per year.
3. To introduce a Flying Minute process whereby interim submissions are endorsed by State Council outside of the usual meeting cycle.
4. To streamline State Council Agenda items in terms of structure and length.

BEST PRACTICE GOVERNANCE REVIEW STEERING COMMITTEE

When commissioning the Project in March 2022, State Council also established a Steering Committee. Overall, the purpose of the Steering Committee is to oversee and guide a review of WALGA's current governance structure, consider alternative governance structures, and ultimately make recommendations to State Council.

Steering Committee Members

The Best Practice Governance Review Steering Committee ("the Steering Committee") is comprised of the following members:

President Cr Karen Chappel JP	WALGA President (Chair)
Cr Paul Kelly	WALGA Deputy President
President Cr Phil Blight	Country State Councillor
Mayor Carol Adams OAM	Metropolitan State Councillor
President Cr David Menzel, Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley	Country Elected Member
Mayor Albert Jacob, City of Joondalup	Metropolitan Elected Member
Andrew Sharpe, City of Albany	Country Chief Executive Officer
David MacLennan, City of Vincent	Metropolitan Chief Executive Officer
Nick Sloan	WALGA Chief Executive Officer

Project Management Team

The Project is overseen by the following Project Management Team:

- **Nick Sloan**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Tony Brown**, Executive Director Member Services – Project Sponsor
- **Tim Lane**, Manager Association and Corporate Governance – Project Manager
- **Kathy Robertson**, Executive Officer Governance

External Consultants

Consultants from PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) were engaged to facilitate meetings of the Steering Committee and to assist in the Steering Committee's background work, development of principles, and development of the Consultation Paper.

Terms of Reference

The Steering Committee adopted the following Terms of Reference:

The WALGA Best Practice Governance Review Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) has been convened by State Council to oversee Stages 2 and 3 of the Best Practice Governance Review Project (the Project). That is, to:

1. review WALGA's existing governance model; and
2. consider options and propose recommendations for change.

Specifically, this will involve:

- Consideration of WALGA's current governance model including its purpose, aims, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats;
- Consideration of alternative governance models, including a review of similar organisations, including Local Government associations in other jurisdictions, peak bodies, and member organisations;
- Review of plausible options and consideration of their benefits, costs, and palatability to the broader membership; and
- Development of recommendations for State Council deliberation.

Issues and subjects to be considered will be guided to some extent by the Steering Committee as part of their deliberations. However, the Steering Committee could consider:

- **State Council**
 - Composition of State Council
 - Representative nature of State Council – would a skills-based board be more appropriate?
 - Principle of equal country and metropolitan representation
 - Method of election of State Councillors
- **Zones**
 - Roles of Zones
 - Relationship between State Council and Zones
 - Existing Zone structures and the basis for the membership of Zones
 - Ability of Zones to influence policy and advocacy
- **State Council's Committee and Policy Team structure**
 - Roles of Committees
 - Membership of Committees
 - Roles and membership of Policy Teams
- **President and Deputy President**
 - Composition of leadership team
 - Roles of President and Deputy President
 - Method of election of President and Deputy President
 - Rotation of office between constituencies
 - Requirement for President and Deputy President to be from alternate constituencies
- **Protocols for State Councillors contesting State or Federal elections**
- **Flying Agenda process to meet Government deadlines for submissions**
- **Format of State Council and Strategic Forum meetings and Agendas**
- **Annual General Meeting**
 - Purpose
 - Processes
 - Member motions
- **Any other matters relating to the existing structure or process of State Council, Committees and Zones**

Methodology

In broad terms, the Steering Committee adopted the following process:

1. Provision of a range of background material including the Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, and outcomes from previous reviews.
2. Consideration of strengths and weaknesses of the current model.
3. Consideration of governance structures of comparable organisations.
4. Development of possible alternative models.
5. Consideration of Member feedback.
6. A final recommendation for presentation to State Council.

The Steering Committee met nine times through 2022 and early 2023.

PROJECT STAGES

The Project Plan for the Review identified five stages to be completed over the 2022 and 2023 calendar years:

1. Planning and Commencement
2. Review and Assessment
3. Recommendations and Determination
4. Drafting Governance Documents
5. Final Approval and Implementation

This report represents a key milestone in Stage Three.

Stage 1: Planning and Commencement

The Planning and Commencement stage was undertaken from January to March 2022, and included the following activities and deliverables:

- Development of a **Project Plan**.
- Development, and executive team consideration, of a **business case** to access strategic project funding.
- Development of a **Request for Quotation** for suitable consultants.
- Appointment of a suitably qualified **consultant**.
- Establishment of a **Steering Committee** by State Council.

Stage 2: Review and Assessment

Stage 2 represented the core work of the Project in terms of reviewing WALGA's existing governance model, considering options and developing recommendations for change as appropriate. This stage was undertaken from April to December 2022 incorporating the following key tasks:

- Convening of the **Steering Committee**, with the consultant to facilitate meetings to:
 - Examine WALGA's **existing model**: purpose, aims, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats;
 - Consider governance models of **similar organisations**: Local Government Associations in other jurisdictions, as well as comparable peak bodies/member organisations; and
- Review **plausible alternative model options**.
- **Regular engagement with State Council** to provide updates on the Committee's deliberations. This also provides an opportunity to receive feedback directly from State Councillors about the Review.
- **Periodic engagement with Members and stakeholders** on the progress of the Review, primarily through updates in Zone Agendas.
- **Development of Governance Principles** for Member consideration at the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, 3 October.
- **Development of a Consultation Paper**, including alternative model options.
- **Comprehensive Member and stakeholder consultation** on the Consultation Paper and model options, by way of Council endorsed feedback and individual Elected Member surveys.

Stage 3: Recommendations and Determination

Following the close of Member feedback and submission on 23 December 2022, the Review is now in the midst of Stage 3, with the key activities being:

- **Final Report of the Steering Committee, including a recommendation(s)** to be presented to State Council for consideration at its March 2023 meeting.
- **Decision by State Council** as to whether or not to accept the Committee's recommendation(s).

Stage 4: Drafting Governance Documents

Following State Council consideration of the Committee's recommendation(s) at the March 2023 meeting, Stage 4 entails giving effect to those changes through the drafting of new or amended governance documents for WALGA:

- **Engagement of legal firm** to draft new or amended governance documents, including:
 - WALGA Constitution
 - Corporate Governance Charter
 - State Council Code of Conduct
 - Standing Orders
- **Implementation** of other changes as appropriate.

Stage 5: Final Approval and Implementation

Stage 5 entails approval of the new or amended governance documents. All Constitutional amendments will require endorsement by both a special majority of State Council and a special majority of Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

- State Council consideration of new or amended governance documents:
 - Constitution
 - Corporate Governance Charter
 - State Council Code of Conduct
 - Standing Orders
- Member consideration of Constitutional amendments at the 2023 AGM.
- Implementation of changes.
- Engagement with Members and stakeholders, outlining key changes and how they will affect the structure and processes of WALGA.

DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONES

Stage	Deliverable / Milestone	Completion Date
1	Project Plan	February 2022
1	Business Case	
1	Request for Quotations	
2	Steering Committee meeting one	5 May 2022
2	Steering Committee meeting two	8 June 2022
2	Steering Committee meeting three	28 June 2022
2	Steering Committee meeting four	18 July 2022
2	Update to State Council at Information Forum	3 August 2022
2	Steering Committee meeting five – finalise Governance Principles and AGM Agenda item	10 August 2022
2	Special meeting of State Council – endorsement of Governance Principles and AGM Agenda item	22 August 2022
3	Endorsement of Governance Principles at the 2022 Annual General Meeting	3 October 2022
3	Steering Committee meeting six – consideration of draft Consultation Paper	6 October 2022
3	Steering Committee meeting seven – finalise Consultation Paper	19 October 2022
3	Webinar on the model options	30 November 2022
3	Engagement with Members on Consultation Paper and consolidation of member feedback	October – 23 December 2022
3	Steering Committee meeting eight – consider Final Report and Ipsos Stakeholder Research	23 January 2023
3	Steering Committee meeting nine – consider details of Model 1 and recommend a direction to State Council	21 February 2023
3	Final Report and Recommendation to go to the March 2023 State Council meeting	1 March 2023
3	Distribution of Final Report and Recommendation to Members	March 2023
4	Briefing Instructions to legal firm	March 2023
4	New or Amended Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, Code of Conduct and Standing Orders	May 2023
5	Finalise State Council Agenda item – new or amended Governance documents	1 June 2023
5	New or amended Governance documents item to go to the July 2023 State Council meeting	5 July 2023
5	Finalise AGM Agenda item – new or amended Constitution	July 2023
5	Consideration of new or amended Constitution at 2023 AGM	18 September 2023

Table 1: Deliverables and Milestones

JURISDICTIONAL ANALYSIS

Work was undertaken as part of both the 2019 review and the current 2022 Review to understand and compare the governance arrangements of Local Government Associations in other jurisdictions. The focus of this work was on Associations from other Australian states and New Zealand.

The Local Government Associations considered in the analysis were:

- Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
- Municipal Association Victoria (MAV)
- Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
- Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA)
- Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)
- Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT)
- Local Government Association of New Zealand (LGNZ)

The assessment of these Associations focused on providing insights into the following domains:

- Size and composition of the board
- Method of election of President
- Method of election of board members

Key Insights

Size of Board

While WALGA's State Council contains the largest number of representatives, boards of Local Government Associations tend to be relatively large in comparison to contemporary best practice. The average board size (using Queensland's Policy Executive, not Board) is approximately 15 members.

Method of Election of President

With respect to the method of election of the Association President, WALGA is an outlier: all other Presidents are elected directly by the membership. This may reflect the prevalence of directly elected Mayors in other jurisdictions and the majority of Mayors and Presidents elected by the Council in WA.

Method of Election of Board Members

Most Associations use regional groupings (equivalent to WALGA's Zones) to elect board members. Local Government New Zealand utilises a hybrid model of electing representatives from geographic zones, sector groups (metro, provincial, rural, regional), and specific interests such as Māori and youth.

Summary: Jurisdictional equivalents to WALGA



Table 2: Summary - Jurisdictional equivalents to WALGA

Governance Model Details

Local Government New South Wales

The Board of Local Government New South Wales consists of:

- The President (which alternates regularly between Metropolitan/Urban and Regional/Rural, “so far as practicable”)¹ elected by delegates at the Annual Conference;
- The Immediate Past President (where applicable);
- Two Vice-Presidents (one from a Metropolitan/Urban council and the other from a Regional/Rural council) elected by delegates from the respective groupings at the Annual Conference;
- A Treasurer elected by delegates at the Annual Conference; and,
- 14 Committee members (7 from Metropolitan/Urban councils and 7 from Regional/Rural councils) elected by delegates from the respective groupings at the Annual Conference.

Municipal Association of Victoria

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is governed by a 13 member board. The 12 members of the board (excluding the President) are elected by 12 regional groupings of Local Governments. There are six metropolitan regions and six non-metropolitan regions that each elect one board member.

The members of MAV directly elect the President at a meeting of State Council. Each member has one representative on State Council, which meets twice per year. For clarity, MAV’s State Council in this context is most similar to WALGA’s Annual General Meeting and MAV’s Board is similar to WALGA’s State Council.

The Board elects two Deputy Presidents: one from the metropolitan regions and one from the non-metropolitan regions.

Local Government Association of Tasmania

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) is governed by a General Management Committee of eight members.

The General Management Committee comprises:

- The President, elected by the members by postal ballot;
- The Lord Mayor of the City of Hobart, or his or her proxy;
- Six members elected from three electoral districts (North West and West Coast, Northern, and Southern) conducted via postal vote. Each electoral district is to elect one representative from Councils with a population of 20,000 or more, and one representative from a Council with a population of less than 20,000.

The General Management Committee elects a Vice President from its members.

¹ Clause 39(a), LGNSW Constitution

Local Government Association of South Australia

The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA) is governed by a 10 member board consisting of the following representatives:

- The President, elected by postal vote by ordinary members (by Council resolution), noting that the President must be a Council Member as well as a current member of either the South Australian Regional Organisation of Councils (SAROC) or the Greater Adelaide Regional Organisation of Councils (GAROC) who has undertaken that role for a period of no less than 1 year to be eligible to nominate for the office of President. The Presidency is rotated between a person who is a Council Member of a Member within Regional Groupings of Members in SAROC and a Council Member of a Member within Regional Groupings of Members in GAROC;
- The Immediate Past President, (if willing and able to serve, and still a member of a Council of an ordinary member) undertakes the role of a board member as well as assisting the President to the extent requested by the President;
- The Chair of SAROC
- The Chair of GAROC
- Six board members (each of which must be a Council Member) with relevant business and governance experience, elected in equal proportions from the Council Members of SAROC (three members) and GAROC (three members).

There are two regional organisations of LGASA Members: SAROC and GAROC. Members are organised into regional groupings for the sole purpose of participating in the processes for the election of SAROC and GAROC.² Each regional grouping elects two Council Members to be members of SAROC or GAROC (as relevant), provided that each person elected is from a different Member Council.

Local Government Association of Queensland

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) employs a dual structure that comprises a Policy Executive and a Board.

The Board comprises the LGAQ President elected by the member councils at the Annual General Meeting plus three directors who are elected from and by the Policy Executive. The Board is responsible for the operation of the business of the company.

The Policy Executive is responsible for the determination of the Association's policy on behalf of member councils. The Policy Executive consists of 15 district representatives and the President. The Policy Executive appoints three Directors to join the LGAQ President in forming the LGAQ Board and meets at least four times per year³ to discuss and determine LGAQ policy.

The 15 representatives are elected to the Policy Executive from 'districts' by the members of those districts. The State is divided into 12 districts, with most districts represented by one member, as per the extract from the Constitution below:

The Districts are represented on the Policy Executive as follows:

- a) in the case of District No. 1 (Brisbane City Council), by one Member appointed by the Brisbane City Council;
- b) in the case of District No. 2 (South East), by three Members elected by the Members included in that District;
- c) in the case of District No 12 (Aboriginal and Island Councils), by two Members elected by the Members of that District;
- d) in all other cases, by one Member for each District elected by the Members included in each respective District.

² Clause 19, LGASA Constitution

³ Clause 5.7, LGAQ Constitution

Local Government Association of the Northern Territory

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory (LGANT) is governed by a nine member Executive that meets monthly consisting of the following representatives:

- The President
- Two Vice Presidents
- Six Executive members. One of these six positions shall be an elected member of the City of Darwin, and one shall be elected by all Regional and Shire Councils present and voting at the Annual General Meeting.

The overall composition of the Executive comprises of four members elected from and by Municipal Councils, and five members elected from and by Regional and Shire Councils

Executive Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting for a two year term.

The President is elected at the Annual General Meeting by the members, as are the two Vice Presidents. One Vice President is elected by Municipal Councils and one Vice President is elected by Regional and Shire Councils.

To nominate for a position of the Executive, an elected member must have the support of their council through a council resolution.

Local Government New Zealand

The National Council is the elected leadership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and is comprised of the President, representatives from regional groups of Local Governments called Zones and representatives from groups of similar Local Governments called Sector Groups.

Sector Groups are formed on the basis of population, as follows:

- Metropolitan Group – population above 90,000
- Provincial Group – population between 20,000 and 90,000
- Rural Group – population less than 20,000
- Regional Group – all regional councils and unitary authorities

The composition of the 19-member board, called the National Council, is as follows:

- President
- One representative from each of Zone one, two, three, four, five, and six;
- Three representatives from the Metropolitan Sector Group;
- Two representatives from the Regional Sector Group;
- One representative from each of the Provincial and Rural Groups;
- Chair of Te Maruata (the Maori sub-committee of the National Council)
- Mayor of Auckland
- Two representatives from Auckland (one appointed by the Auckland Council and one appointed by the Auckland Local Boards)
- One representative from the Young Elected Members Network

The President of Local Government New Zealand is elected by a ballot of members at an annual general meeting.

COMPARATOR ORGANISATIONS

The Steering Committee had its first meeting on 5 May 2022. There was wide-ranging discussion on WALGA's current governance model, the need to engage broadly with the membership, and opportunities for change.

At the meeting, five comparator organisations were identified to be used in a governance model comparative analysis. The organisations were selected on the basis of their similarity to WALGA as WA member-based peak industry organisations.

The selected organisations were:

1. AMA – Australian Medical Association
2. CCIWA – Chamber of Commerce and Industry
3. CME – Chamber of Minerals and Energy
4. AHA – Australian Hoteliers Association
5. Pharmacy Guild of WA

The Steering Committee, with the assistance of PwC, reviewed the governance models of these comparator organisations.

The Process

The documentation used for the analysis of the comparator organisations were typically the:

- Constitution
- Annual reports
- Organisational website

PwC also conducted interviews with three of the five organisations. They were AMA WA, CCI WA and CME WA. The document analysis and interviews provided insights into the size, election methods and recent changes within these organisations.

Key Learnings

Size of Board

WALGA's board (State Council) is larger than all other comparator organisation's boards.

Structure

Most (CCI, CME, Pharmacy Guild) utilise a two-tier structure comprising a board and a policy council, while AMA utilises a number of committees (based on specialisation) to support the board in policy development.

Election methods

The election methods varied across the comparator organisations but many involved election through the membership.

Change

Three of the five organisations have undergone recent structural change to sharpen the decision-making role of the board or to ensure the right voices contribute to policy development.

Summary of Findings

Organisational Comparisons	Number of Board Members	President Elected by	Board Members elected by
WA Local Government Association (WALGA)	25	The Board	Zones
Australian Medical Association (AMA)	9	AMA WA Members	Members of the Association
Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA)	7 to 10	The Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 4 elected by Members • Up to 3 appointed by the Board • Up to 3 appointed by the Council
Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME)	6 to 11	Ordinary Members	Executive Councillors
Australian Hotels Association (AHA) WA	17	The Branch Committee of Management	The Branch Committee of Management
Pharmacy Guild (PG) – WA branch	16 to 22	The Branch	Financial Members from the same region as the Branch

Note: The Council, Branch, or Board chosen from the organisations above were chosen for how appropriate their structure is as a comparison to the WALGA State Council.

Table 3: Summary of Findings - Comparator Organisations

**1. Organisational Analysis:
Australian Medical Association (AMA) WA**



With over 5,000 members, the AMA (WA) is the largest independent professional organisation for medical practitioners and medical students in the State. Total revenue and other income for AMA nationally in 2020 was reported as \$21,928,000.

Organisational Information

The AMA (WA) Board was created in 2017 and is comprised of the President, Immediate Past President, two Vice Presidents and five members of Council who are elected to sit on the Board (9 in total).

The AMA (WA) Council consists of four office bearers (President, Immediate Past President, two Vice Presidents). Additionally, there are the Specialty Group Representatives (e.g. General practice, surgery); Practice Group Representatives (e.g. rural doctors, public hospital doctors); Ordinary Council Members; and, Co-opted Council Members. Majority of the representatives and members represent their specialty (e.g. anaesthetics) or group of representative (e.g. medical student society).

The AMA Federal Council meets quarterly and is the AMA's main policy-making body. It is a forum to identify and debate emerging issues of relevance to the membership. The Federal Council's primary role is to: Form the policy of the AMA; Propose changes to existing policy; and Elect representatives to roles and committees. There is one State and one Area nominee from WA on the Federal Council.

The Leadership team consists of seven staff. CEO, CFO, COO, General Manager Training and Recruitment, Operations Manager, General Manager Financial Services and an HR manager.

Governance Structure

<p>The Board comprises of approximately 9 members.</p>	<p>The Board focuses on governance, managing the Association's conduct and business, and ensuring conformity with the constitution.</p>
<p>The Board may increase or decrease the number of Advisory Council members as needed. However, it currently has 4 members.</p>	<p>The General Council focuses on advocacy, policy making, and representation of the association.</p>
<p>The Board and Council is also supported by Specialty Group Representatives, Practice Group Representatives, Ordinary Council Members, and Co-Opted Council Members.</p>	

**The AMA WA Constitution does not specify the number of Board or Council members. Member numbers are indicative and have been taken from the current Board & Council.*

Outcomes of Organisational Discussion

Governance Review

The 2020 annual report mentions that an organisation-wide review was undertaken with the transformation in the process of being implemented until March 2020 (COVID).

Representation

It is more important to restrict the number of Board members than Councillors. Board members are involved in making policy and governance decisions, requiring a greater decision-making capability; Councillors are more involved in stakeholder engagement and solving specific issues through working groups, therefore Council size has less impact to efficiency and effectiveness of the model.

Engagement

The president is the spokesperson when it comes to policy issues. Councillors represent the views of Specialty Groups, Practice Groups, and the medical profession as a whole.

Feedback on the current model

Board members have previously taken the role because they are passionate, but do not necessarily have the right expertise, resulting in poor governance. Board members who have leadership and governance experience have proven to be effective in the updated model. The Board would benefit from an independent audit partner and increased diversity in specialty, a simplified purpose of the Board and Council Advisory, and a reduced number of meetings each year.

2. Organisational Analysis: Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) WA



CCIWA is a not-for-profit member organisation providing information, professional services and support for businesses in Western Australia, with over 2,000 WA members. Total revenue and other income for 2021 was reported as \$34,270,130.

Organisational Information

The CCIWA operates as a company limited by guarantee. This came into effect on 11 January 2019. The change in status means that CCIWA is now incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) rather than the State legislation covering incorporated associations.

Based on the constitution, the number of board members can be between 7-10 (including President & Vice President). The current board has only 6 members including the President and Vice President.

There is a General Council. The constitution states that Councillors can be up to certain numbers depending on who they were elected by. The resulting effect is a council that does not have consistent numbers of members and does not need to fill all positions. This is unlike WALGA's governance model where representatives are elected by zones.

The Board is responsible for the sound governance of the organisation, whereas the General Council provides input to the organisations policy; provides advice to the Board; acts as a point of interface; elects and appoints Council Elected Directors; and passes resolutions relating to specific handling of assets and raising and borrowing funds.

Governance Structure

<p>The Board comprises of 7 – 10 members.</p>	<p>The Board focuses on strategic priorities, financial performance and compliance issues.</p>
<p>The General Council consists of up to 28 Councillors.</p>	<p>The General Council focuses on developing and being spokespersons on public policy frameworks and positions.</p>
<p>The governance structure is supported by bespoke working groups, formed from Councillors as relevant for specific strategic and policy issues.</p>	

Outcomes of Organisation Discussion

Governance Review

CCIWA conducted a review of their 2018 Constitution, resulting in changes contained in the 2021 Constitution, including: The governance model was revised to increase the decision-making capability of the board; The structure of the General Council was determined to be too generic causing low Councillor attendance. After the review, Councillors were split into bespoke working groups for specific policy issues for the upcoming 12-month period. This resulted in higher councillor attendance, than the previous governance model.

Representation

In the new revision of the constitution, two new types of Councillors were included to increase representation for their respective groups. Future Leader Councillors, from members of University business schools; and First Nations Business Councillors, elected from First Nations Members.

Feedback on the current model

In the current governance model, when a board member leaves, a temporary team member is appointed since board members can only be elected in general meetings.

3. Organisational Analysis: The Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME) WA



CME WA is the peak resources sector representative body in Western Australia whose member companies generate 95% of all mineral and energy production and employ 80% of the sector's workforce in the State.

Organisational Information

The Corporate Governance Charter (Charter) provides guidance on the respective roles, responsibilities and authorities of members of the Executive Council (Executive Councillors) and members of the Advisory Board (Advisory Board Members) in setting the direction, management and control.

The number of Vice Presidents is determined by the Executive Council, the constitution contains no limit on the number of Vice Presidents and so the number of Vice Presidents is excluded from the diagram to the right.

Executive Councillors are elected by Ordinary Members, and there can be no less than 10.

The Role of the Advisory Board is to act as a traditional board providing strategic oversight on behalf of the Chamber. Key interface with the Executive Management Team on organisational matters, including strategy, operating accounts, governance and risk.

Governance Structure

Advisory Board comprises 5-10 members.	The Advisory Board provides strategic oversight and acts as the key interface with the Executive Management team on strategy, operating accounts, governance and risk.
The Executive Council comprises 10+ members.	The Executive Council most senior interface to guide and prioritise the agenda of the Chamber and its respective committees and holds final decision-making authority re: annual financial reports/statements.
The governance structure is supported by committees including bespoke working groups, appointed by Executive Council as relevant for specific strategic and policy issues.	

Outcomes of Organisational Discussion

Governance Review

CME recently engaged in a governance review. In April 2020, CME put in place a governance charter. This codified processes and structures, clarified lines of accountability and included a director's code of conduct.

Representation

Members who express an interest, get a seat at the table for the Executive Council. There are approximately 60 ordinary members with 16-20 regularly attending council meetings. This group is intended to provide a litmus check that the broader membership needs are being met.

Engagement

Although the board is strongly engaged in the work and responsibilities it holds, there is the varying engagement of the executive council – this is broadly because due to the large array of issues it covers – the organisation would love to see stronger engagement in this area.

Feedback on the current model

Based on the age of the organisation, the current pyramid structure works. This is successful largely due to the governance charter which provides clarity in role and structure for the organisation.

4. Organisational Analysis: Australian Hotels Association (WA)



The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) represents more than 5,000 members across Australia serviced by a network of branches based in every state and territory, plus a Canberra-based National Office. Total revenue and other income for AMA nationally in 2020 was reported as \$2,257,963.

Organisational Information

AHA was founded in 1892 and now represents more than 80% of the Western Australian hotel and hospitality industry.

The organisation has a branch in each state and territory, including a division in each branch known as the National Accommodation Hotels Division. The organisation and each of its branches have their own set of rules by which they are governed. However, ultimate authority is deferred to the National Board of the organisation.

All issues and opportunities are addressed by The Branch Committee of Management (The Branch). Consisting of six ordinary members, elected by members of the branch, and the president from each of the Territorial and Non-Territorial Divisions of the Branch. This includes a President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, Treasurer, Accommodation President and Country Representative. The President, Senior Vice President (SVP) and Vice President (VP) are elected by The Branch.

AHA developed a subsidiary known as 'Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA)'. TAA publicly represents and lobbies specifically for accommodation hotels separately from the AHA's general hospitality members. However, membership to both AHA and TAA is granted to accommodation properties. There are 11 Divisional Presidents – 7 represent different Areas/Regions and 4 represent different membership groups.

Governance Structure

Branch Committee of Management has 6 Ordinary members & the president of each Territory/Non-Territory Division (11).

Focuses on staff remuneration/conditions, branch transactions, disbursements, funds and resolves delegated Commonwealth industrial disputes.

There is no council or other governing entity to provide support to the Branch Committee of Management.

**The governance structure has been taken from the Rules of the AHA WA Branch document instead of the current governance structure depicted on the website, due to conflicting information.*

Outcomes of Organisational Discussion

AHA was contacted to schedule an interview; however, there was no response following multiple requests. The following insights have been made by research on their publicly available governance information and documentation.

Composition

Similar to WALGA's State Council, the AHA Governance structure only has one governing entity, The Branch Committee of Management. The number of branch members (17) is smaller than WALGA (25).

Responsibilities

The AHA Branch Committee of Management is responsible for financial activities; however, the Rules document does not mention that they are responsible for activities that other comparator organisations governing entities are, such as policy creation or ensuring compliance.

Lack of compliance with constitution

The Rules of the AHA WA Branch document acts as the Association's constitution. However, there are many conflicts between the governance structure in the Branch Rules document, and the governance structure depicted on AHA WA's website. For example, in the document the supreme governing body of the Branch is the Branch Committee of Management, whereas on the website it is the Executive Management team. Additionally, there is no mention of a board in the Rules document, but there is a Board of Management on the website.

5. Organisational Analysis: Pharmacy Guild (WA Branch focus)



The Pharmacy Guild of Australia

Pharmacy Guild supports over 5,800 pharmacies across Australia. It is broken up into Territory Branches with more than 600 pharmacies as members in WA (est. 2017).

Organisational Information

The Pharmacy Guild's WA Branch's Annual Report can only be viewed by Members of the Organisation.

The Branch consists of the Branch Executive, and the Branch Committee. Where the Branch Executive consists of the Branch President, Branch Vice President(s) and the National Councillor(s). Additionally, in the Branch Executive, the position of Branch President and Vice President can also be held by a National Councillor, resulting in different numbers of Branch Executives between states.

The National council has the power to determine and direct policy, settle disputes, control the national fund, appoint an auditor and other activities relating to being the supreme governing entity.

The constitution does not specify who exactly elects the Branch President, or the Branch Vice Presidents, only that they are elected from the Branch. Whereas Branch Committee Members are elected by financial members in that region.

The Branch and the National Council shall appoint their own auditor. Resulting in potential conflicts of interest, as hypothetically the Branch and the National Council can appoint an auditor who audits in their favour.

Governance Structure

Branch Executive consists of 2 – 6 Executive Members.	All powers and functions of the Branch Committee between meetings of the Branch Committee.
Branch Committee consists of 7 - 14 committee members (excluding the Branch executive).	Control the Branch fund, decide the agenda for and attend special meetings.
There is only one governing entity in WA for Pharmacy Guild, however the WA Branch consists of National Councillors, from the National Council which is the supreme governing body for the Pharmacy Guild. However, the Branch Committee can create subcommittees to carry out particular functions.	

**Since the number of members in governance entities is mentioned in the Constitution, the numbers have been estimated based on the current membership as per the Guild's website.*

Outcomes of Organisational Discussion

Pharmacy Guild WA was contacted to schedule an interview; however, they responded that they do not have time to discuss their governance model. The following insights have been made by research on their publicly available governance information and documentation.

Representation

The interests of members are represented by the Branch Committee Members who are elected by the financial members of the same regions. Additionally, the interests of the National Council are represented in Branches by the National Councillors appointed in each Branch.

Composition

The governance structure of the Branches of the Pharmacy Guild is adaptable to the needs of the Branch. Since the Branch Committee members can decide the number of Committee members needed in their branch, they can do so based on the needs of the Branch at any point in time, making the composition and size of the Branch adaptable to emerging needs. Also, the creation of additional branches and amalgamations of current branches is up to the decision of the National Council, enabling the National Council to alter the composition of the governance model nation-wide as needed. Branches can also create subcommittees as needed.

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

The Steering Committee decided to develop an item outlining Governance Principles for member consideration at the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Steering Committee determined that Member consideration of principles would guide the development and focus the assessment of alternative models.

10 principles were put forward, in three categories: representative, responsive, and results-oriented.

The principles were endorsed by State Council in August 2022 and were then contained in the Governance Principles paper which was included in the AGM Agenda. There was almost universal endorsement of the Principles by members at the 2022 AGM on Monday, 3 October (221 for, 14 against).

The details of the principles are provided on the following page.

Endorsed Governance Principles

REPRESENTATIVE	WALGA unites and represents the entire local government sector in WA and understands the diverse nature and needs of members, regional communities and economies.	Composition	The composition of WALGA's governance model represents Local Government members from metropolitan and country councils.	The governing body will maintain equal country and metropolitan local government representation.
		Size	An appropriate number of members/representatives oversees WALGA's governance.	Potential reduction in the size of the overarching governing body.
		Diversity	WALGA's governance reflects the diversity and experience of its Local Government members.	Potential for the introduction of a mechanism to ensure the governance model comprises an appropriate diversity of skills and experience.
		Election Process	Considers the processes by which WALGA's governance positions are elected and appointed.	Consideration of alternative election and appointment arrangements, with the President to be elected by and from the governing body.
RESPONSIVE	WALGA is an agile association which acts quickly to respond to the needs of Local Government members and stakeholders.	Timely Decision Making	WALGA's governance supports timely decision making.	WALGA's governance model facilitates responsive decision making.
		Engaged Decision Making	WALGA's Local Government members are engaged in decision making processes.	WALGA's governance model facilitates clear and accessible processes for Local Government members to influence policy and advocacy with consideration to alternatives to the existing zone structure.
		Agility	Considers the flexibility of WALGA's governance to adapt to changing circumstances.	WALGA's governance model is agile and future proofed for external changes.
RESULTS ORIENTED	WALGA dedicates resources and efforts to secure the best outcomes for Local Government members and supports the delivery of high-quality projects, programs and services.	Focus	Considers the clarity and separation of responsibilities and accountabilities of WALGA's governance.	Governance bodies have clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities, with the capacity to prioritise and focus on strategic issues.
		Value Added Decision Making	Facilitates opportunities for value to be added to decision making.	Adoption of best practice board processes, and introduction of governance structures that are empowered to inform decisions.
		Continuous Improvement	Considers regular review processes for components of the governance model, their purpose and achieved outcomes.	WALGA's governance is regularly reviewed every 3 to 5 years to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for Local Government members.

Table 4: Endorsed Governance Principles

CONSULTATION PAPER: MODEL OPTIONS

Following the endorsement of the Governance Principles by the membership at the 2022 Annual General Meeting, the Steering Committee, with the assistance of PwC, developed four potential model options for WALGA's governance structure.

Each of the model options, as well as the current model, was considered with respect to its alignment to the Governance Principles.

The four models formed the basis of the Consultation Paper, distributed to members in October 2022, and included in this report as Appendix 2.

Summary of Model Options



















OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4	OPTION 5
Two tier model, existing Zones	Board, Regional Bodies	Board, Amalgamated Zones	Member elected Board, Regional Groups	Current Model
 <p>BOARD (11 Members) 8 Elected from Policy Council, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p>	 <p>BOARD (11 Members) 8 Elected from Regional Bodies, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p>	 <p>BOARD (15 Members) 12 Elected from Zones, incl. Board elected President Up to 2 independents</p>	 <p>BOARD (11 Members) 8 Elected via direct election, incl. Board elected President Up to 2 independents</p>	 <p>STATE COUNCIL (25 Members) 24 State Councillors 1 President</p>
 <p>POLICY COUNCIL (25 Members) 24 Members plus President</p>	 <p>REGIONAL BODIES (4 Metro, 4 Country)</p>	 <p>ZONES (6 Metro, 6 Country)</p>	 <p>POLICY TEAMS / FORUMS / COMMITTEES</p>	 <p>ZONES (5 Metro, 12 Country)</p>
 <p>ZONES (5 Metro, 12 Country)</p>	 <p>POLICY TEAMS / FORUMS / COMMITTEES</p>	 <p>POLICY TEAMS / FORUMS / COMMITTEES</p>	 <p>REGIONAL GROUPS</p>	 <p>POLICY TEAMS / FORUMS / COMMITTEES</p>

Table 5: Summary of Model Options

Option 1: Two Tier Model, Existing Zones

Model description – Option 1




GOVERNANCE BODY	STRUCTURE	ROLE
 <p>BOARD</p>	<p>11 Members: 8 representative members elected from and by the Policy Council (4 Metro, 4 Country). The Board then elect the President from the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors.</p>	<p>Meet 6 times per year. Responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.</p>
 <p>POLICY COUNCIL</p>	<p>24 Members plus President. Members elected by and from the Zones (12 from 5 Metro Zones, 12 from 12 Country Zones).</p>	<p>Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy positions and advocacy for input into Board, and to liaise with Zones on Policy Teams, Policy Forums and Committees, which would have the responsibility for specific functions, such as policy development.</p>
 <p>ZONES</p>	<p>5 Metro, 12 Country</p>	<p>Meet at least 2 times per year to raise policy issues, elect representatives to the Policy Council, and undertake regional advocacy and projects as directed by the Zone.</p>

Alignment to principles – Option 1

Principle & component		Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points
REPRESENTATIVE	Composition	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board will have equal metropolitan and country membership
	Size	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is smaller
	Diversity	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of appointment processes for independent members
	Election Process	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board to be elected from Policy Council
RESPONSIVE	Timely Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meetings are not dependent on other governing body meetings
	Agility	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is future-proofed from external changes Zone structures still underpin Council
RESULTS ORIENTED	Focus	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation and focus may be a challenge
	Value Added Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice board approaches will be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board would be responsible for ongoing reviews of governance body roles in consultation with members

Option 2: Board, Regional Bodies

Model description – Option 2




GOVERNANCE BODY	STRUCTURE	ROLE
 <p>BOARD</p>	<p>11 Members: 8 representative members elected from and by the Regional Bodies (4 Metro, 4 Country). The Board then elect the President from the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors.</p>	<p>Meet 6 times per year responsible for governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.</p>
 <p>REGIONAL BODIES</p>	<p>Metro: North, South, East and Central. Country: Mining & Pastoral, Agricultural, Peel/South West/Great Southern, Regional Capitals. Note: Local governments can nominate their preferred regional body, with membership of the regional bodies to be determined by the board.</p>	<p>Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy development and advocacy, and to elect Board members (1 from each of the Metro Regional Bodies and 1 from each of the Country Regional Bodies).</p>
 <p>POLICY TEAMS / FORUMS / COMMITTEES</p>	<p>Membership drawn from the Board and the Regional Bodies with some independent members.</p>	<p>Responsible for specific functions - such as the policy development - as determined by the Board.</p>

Alignment to principles – Option 2

Principle & component		Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points
REPRESENTATIVE	Composition	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board will have equal metropolitan and country membership How to establish regional body membership is a consideration
	Size	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is smaller Number of regional bodies is a consideration
	Diversity	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of appointment processes for independent members
	Election Process	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board election from regional bodies
RESPONSIVE	Timely Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meetings are not dependent on regional body meetings
	Agility	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board and regional bodies are future proofed from external changes
RESULTS ORIENTED	Focus	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be challenges defining accountabilities and responsibilities of regional bodies
	Value Added Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice board approaches will be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board will be responsible for ongoing reviews of governing body roles in consultation with members

Option 3: Board, Amalgamated Zones

Model description – Option 3




GOVERNANCE BODY	STRUCTURE	ROLE
 <p>BOARD</p>	<p>15 Members: 12 elected from the Zones (6 Metro/Peel, 6 from Country). Preseident to be elected by the Board (who will then be replaced by their Zone). The Board will appoint up to 12 independent, skills or constituency directors.</p>	<p>Meet 6 times per year. Responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.</p>
 <p>ZONES</p>	<p>Metro/Peel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Metropolitan • East Metropolitan • North Metropolitan • South Metropolitan • South East Metropolitan • Peel <p>Country*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheatbelt South • Wheatbelt North • Midwest/Murchison/Gascoyne • Pilbara/Kimberley • South West/Great Southern • Goldfields/Esperance <p><i>* indicative, re-drawing required</i></p>	<p>Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy development and advocacy, and to elect Board members.</p>
 <p>POLICY TEAMS / FORUMS / COMMITTEES</p>	<p>Membership drawn from Board with some Independent members.</p>	<p>Responsible for specific functions - such as the policy development - as determined by the Board.</p>

Alignment to principles – Option 3

Principle & component		Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points
REPRESENTATIVE	Composition	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board will have equal metropolitan and country membership There may be composition challenges for amalgamated zones
	Size	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is smaller Amalgamation of zones to 12 in total
	Diversity	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of appointment processes for independent members
	Election Process	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board election from zones
RESPONSIVE	Timely Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meetings are aligned to zone meetings
	Agility	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is future proofed from external changes
RESULTS ORIENTED	Focus	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation and focus may be a challenge
	Value Added Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice board approaches will be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board would be responsible for ongoing reviews of governance body roles in consultation with members

Option 4: Member Elected Board, Regional Groups

Model description – Option 4




GOVERNANCE BODY	STRUCTURE	ROLE
 <p>BOARD</p>	<p>11 Members: 8 representative members elected via direct election, with each member Local Government (4 elected by and from Local Governments, 4 elected by and from Country Local Governments). President elected by the Board from among the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors.</p>	<p>Meet 6 times per year. Responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.</p>
 <p>POLICY TEAMS / FORUMS / COMMITTEES</p>	<p>Membership drawn from Board with some Independent members.</p>	<p>Meet at least 2 times per year. Responsible for specific functions - such as contributing to policy development - as determined by the Board.</p>
 <p>REGIONAL GROUPS</p>	<p>Determined by members to suit needs. E.g. Regional Capitals, GAPP, VROCs, CEO Group, existing Zones.</p>	<p>Feed into policy development processes and undertake advocacy and projects as determined by the groups.</p>

Alignment to principles – Option 4

Principle & component		Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points
REPRESENTATIVE	Composition	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board will have equal metropolitan and country membership Membership of regional groups dynamic and ad hoc
	Size	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is smaller
	Diversity	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of appointment processes for independent members
	Election Process	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board election from a general meeting
RESPONSIVE	Timely Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meetings are not dependent on policy teams / regional group meetings
	Agility	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is future-proofed from external changes
RESULTS ORIENTED	Focus	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy teams / Regional Group meetings to influence priorities
	Value Added Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice board approaches will be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board would be responsible for ongoing reviews of governing body roles in consultation with members

Option 5: Current Model

Model description – Option 5

GOVERNANCE BODY	STRUCTURE	ROLE
 <p>STATE COUNCIL</p>	<p>24 members plus the President. Members elected by and from the Zones (12 from 5 Metropolitan Zones, 12 from 12 Country Zones).</p>	<p>Responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy, employment of CEO, etc.</p>
 <p>ZONES</p>	<p>5 Metro, 12 Country</p>	<p>Consider the State Council Agenda, elect State Councillors, and undertake regional advocacy / projects as directed by the Zone.</p>
 <p>POLICY TEAMS / FORUMS / COMMITTEES</p>	<p>Membership drawn from State Council with some independent members.</p>	<p>Responsible for specific functions - such as contributing to policy development, financial oversight etc. - as determined by State Council.</p>

Alignment to principles – Option 5

Principle & component		Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points
REPRESENTATIVE	Composition	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council has equal metropolitan and country membership
	Size	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council will retain 25 members
	Diversity	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No control of diversity of State Council
	Election Process	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council election from zones
RESPONSIVE	Timely Decision Making	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council meetings are aligned to zone meetings
	Agility	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council is not future proofed from external changes
RESULTS ORIENTED	Focus	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation and focus may remain a challenge
	Value Added Decision Making	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice board approaches will not be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council would continue to be responsible for ongoing reviews of governance body roles in consultation with members

MEMBER CONSULTATION

Member consultation was identified as a key focus of the Project from the outset.

Consultation and engagement with Members on the Project was undertaken from mid-2022 onwards.

Correspondence and Consultation with Members

An item providing an update to Members on the progress of the Review was included in all Zone Agendas as well as the WALGA President's Report for the June 2022 round of Zone meetings.

Concurrently, an email was sent on behalf of WALGA President Cr Karen Chappel to all Elected Members on 15 June 2022 providing detail on the rationale behind the Review, an update on the progress of the Project and referencing the item for decision that would be put to Members at the 2022 AGM in relation to the Governance Review Principles.

A link to the Agenda for the 2022 AGM (which included the Governance Review Principles item) was distributed to all Elected Members via email on 2 September 2022, ahead of the 3 October 2022 meeting.

Ipsos Stakeholder Research

Market research and consulting firm, Ipsos were engaged as part of the Project to conduct a research study with Elected Members and CEOs. The key aims of the study were to:

- Educate and collect feedback from stakeholders (being Elected Members and CEOs) on the rationale for a revised governance model;
- Establish a perception benchmark on the Review; and
- Collect comprehensive feedback on the proposed model options and determine a preference.

Ipsos conducted 121 surveys and interviews with stakeholders in November and December 2022. This included 12 qualitative phone interviews and 109 quantitative surveys.

The qualitative interviews were conducted with a small group of participants, chosen to ensure a split of Elected Members and CEOs from across the state.

The quantitative survey was sent by WALGA to all CEOs and Elected Members in WA. A total of five emails were sent to stakeholders by WALGA, including the original invitation to complete the survey, two reminder emails to stakeholders who had not yet opened the survey, and two reminder emails to stakeholders who had started but not completed the survey.

For further details on the process and findings of Ipsos' research study, refer to **Appendix 3** of this report.

Notification of Consultation Paper

Consultation and engagement with Members on the Consultation Paper (including model options) was undertaken from mid-October until 23 December 2022.

An email was sent from WALGA CEO Nick Sloan to all Local Government CEOs on 24 October 2022, providing links to both the Background Paper and the Consultation Paper, and requesting feedback by 23 December. Member Councils were asked to consider the Paper and respond with a Council-endorsed position on the five proposed model options. Councils were requested to provide an order of preference in relation to all five models (that is, ranking the model options from the most to the least preferred).

Presentations to Members

In the email to CEOs providing the Consultation Paper (and in the Paper itself), was an offer to all Members for WALGA to provide a presentation or workshop outlining each of the model options, and generally answering questions about the Paper.

Several Members took up this offer, as detailed in the table below.

In addition to these presentations, WALGA also conducted a webinar open to all Members on Wednesday, 30 November 2022. A recording of the webinar was made available and a link to which was distributed in early December.

Date	Audience
26/10/2022	CEO Connections Forum, LG Professionals WA Conference
14/11/2022	City of Kwinana
15/11/2022	Shire of West Arthur
16/11/2022	City of Mandurah
17/11/2022	City of Bayswater
25/11/2022	South West Country Zone (12 Local Governments)
25/11/2022	Central Country Zone (15 Local Governments)
28/11/2022	Great Eastern Country Zone (16 Local Governments)
29/11/2022	Shire of Broome (via Teams)
30/11/2022	Webinar – 23 attendees
6/12/2022	Shire of Esperance (via Teams)
13/12/2022	GVROC (nine Local Governments via Teams)
15/12/2022	Shire of Bruce Rock
15/12/2022	Regional Capitals Alliance (10 Local Governments)

Table 6: Presentations to Members

Updates to State Council

After endorsing the Governance Review in December 2021, State Council was given regular updates on the progress of the Project, including opportunities to ask questions of WALGA and Steering Committee members directly.

Progress updates were included in State Council Strategic Forum Agendas in March, May and July 2022, as well as in Information Forum Agendas in June, August and November 2022.

In addition, email updates were periodically sent to State Councillors. On 31 October, WALGA sent an email to all State Councillors providing an update on the Project; in particular, notifying that the Consultation Paper had been distributed to all CEOs the previous week.

MEMBER FEEDBACK

Feedback on the governance models was obtained through two parallel and complementary processes:

- Council endorsed submissions from Member Local Governments, including preferences as to the five model options, and additional comments; and
- Quantitative and qualitative research undertaken by Ipsos.

Council Endorsed Submissions – Preferences

Submissions were received from 99 Local Governments, which represents 71 percent of WALGA's members. Of these, 90 submissions provided at least one preference in terms of the five model options presented in the Consultation Paper, and nine Local Governments either noted the review, declined to express any preference or requested significant changes to the process of the review.

Number of Preferences

Of the 90 Local Governments that resolved in relation to the five models, 31 Local Governments provided one preference, 20 provided two, one provided three and 38 provided five preferences.

Both the Shire of Perenjori and the Town of Claremont provided two equal first preferences and are therefore each recorded as providing two preferences.

Of the 90 submissions, 22 (representing 22 percent) were from Local Governments from metropolitan Zones, and 77 (representing 78 percent) were from Local Governments in country Zones. These figures are broadly representative of the metropolitan and country split within the WA Local Government sector (where 29 Local Governments representing 21 percent of the sector are in metropolitan Zones, and the remaining 110, or 79 percent, are in country Zones).

The table below shows the breakdown of number of preferences submitted by Local Governments based on type of Zone (that is, whether metropolitan or country).

Preferences relating to the Models by metropolitan / country Zones			
	Metropolitan	Country	Total
No preference	6	3	9
One preference	4	27	31
Two preferences	1	19	20
Three preferences	0	1	1
Four preferences	0	0	0
Five preferences	11	27	38
Total	22	77	99

Table 7: Preferences relating to the Models by metropolitan / country Zones

Figure 1 below shows the number of preferences in relation to the five models provided by Local Governments in their Council endorsed submissions, excluding the nine Local Governments that provided no preferences in relation to the models.

The left column shows first preferences in dark blue. The second column adds, in red, submissions that provided two preferences. Submissions that provided three and then five preferences are added to subsequent columns.

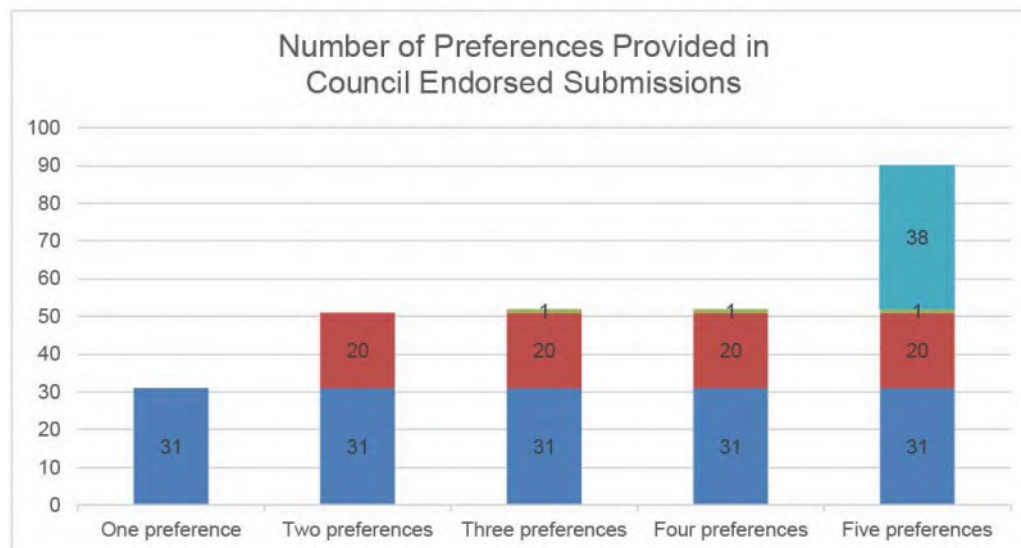


Figure 1: Number of Preferences Provided in Council Endorsed Submissions

First Preferences

All Submissions

The first preferences submitted on the five models are represented in the table below, ordered by highest number of first preference to lowest.

First Preferences – all submissions	
Model 5 – Current Model	35
Model 1 – Two Tier Model, Existing Zones	33
Model 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones	11
Model 4 – Member Elected Board, Regional Groups	8
Model 2 – Board, Regional Bodies	5
No preference	9

Table 8: First Preferences - all submissions

A total of 92 first preferences were received from 90 submissions with preferences allocated, as both the Shire of Perenjori and the Town of Claremont submitted two equal first preferences.

As per Table 8, and as shown in Figure 2 below, the Current Model received the highest number of first preferences (35), representing 38 percent of first preferences, followed by Model 1, which received 33 (36 percent of first preferences). Other models received 11 or fewer first preferences.

Of the 35 first preferences received for the Current Model, 21 (60 percent) did not provide any further preferences. Of the remaining 14 submissions, one allocated an equal first preference to Model 1, 11 allocated their second preference to Model 1, one allocated an equal first preference to Model 3 and one allocated their second preference to Model 3.

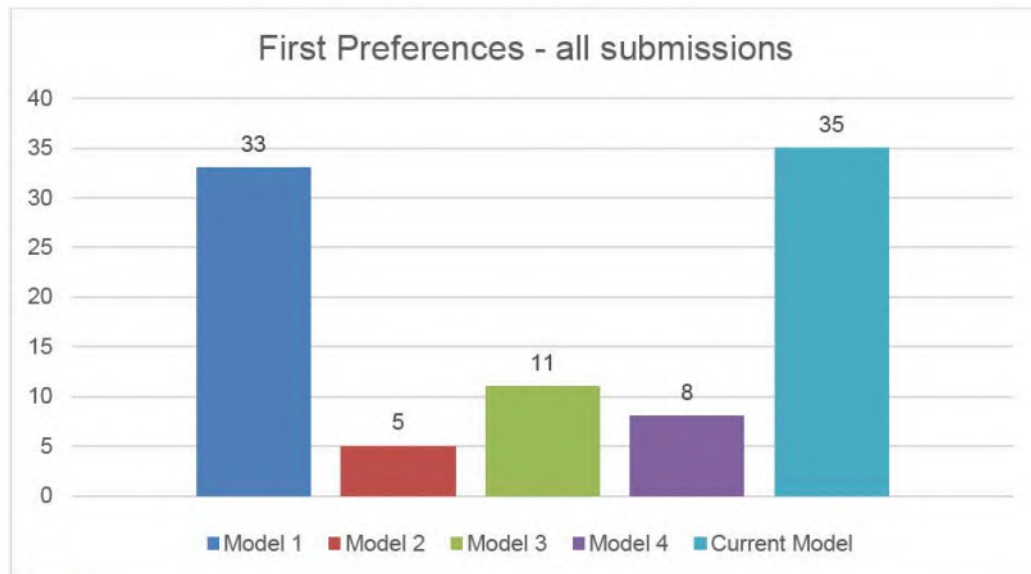


Figure 2: First Preferences - all submissions

As per Figure 2 above, 57 first preferences were received for a change option, and 35 first preferences were received for the Current Model. Therefore, 62 percent of first preferences were received for a change option, compared to 38 percent of first preferences for the Current Model.

Figure 3 below shows the distribution of Local Government submissions as between change or the Current Model. Whilst 90 Local Governments made a submission (and 92 first preferences were received), the Shire of Perenjori gave equal first preferences to Model 1 and the Current Model (and is therefore not included in the Figure 3 total of 89 submissions).

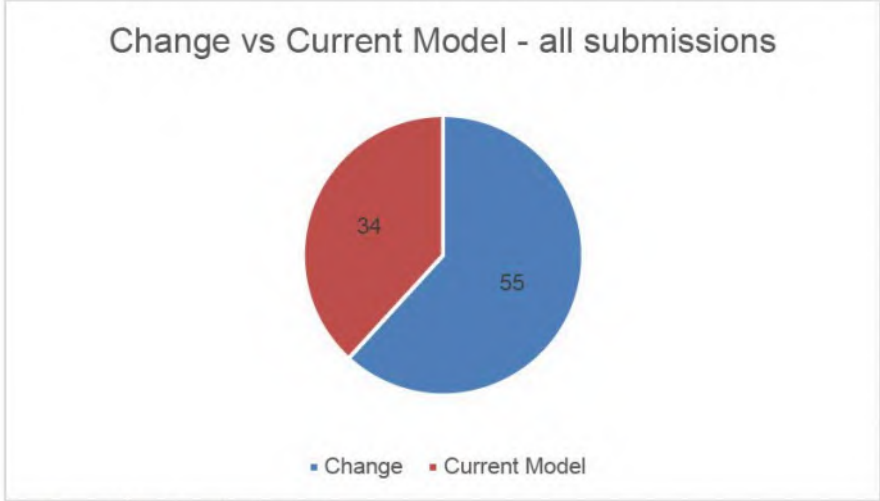


Figure 3: Change vs Current Model - all submissions

Metropolitan Local Government Submissions

Of the 90 submissions that resolved in relation to the model options, 22 were from Metropolitan Local Governments, and of these, six did not include any preferences and one provided two equal first preferences.

Therefore, 17 first preferences were received from Metropolitan Local Governments. These first preferences were mostly split between the change models (Models 1, 2, 3 and 4). As Figure 4 below shows, Models 3 and 4 were equally the most preferred amongst Metropolitan Local Government submissions with five first preferences each, followed by Model 1 with four first preferences and Model 2 with two.

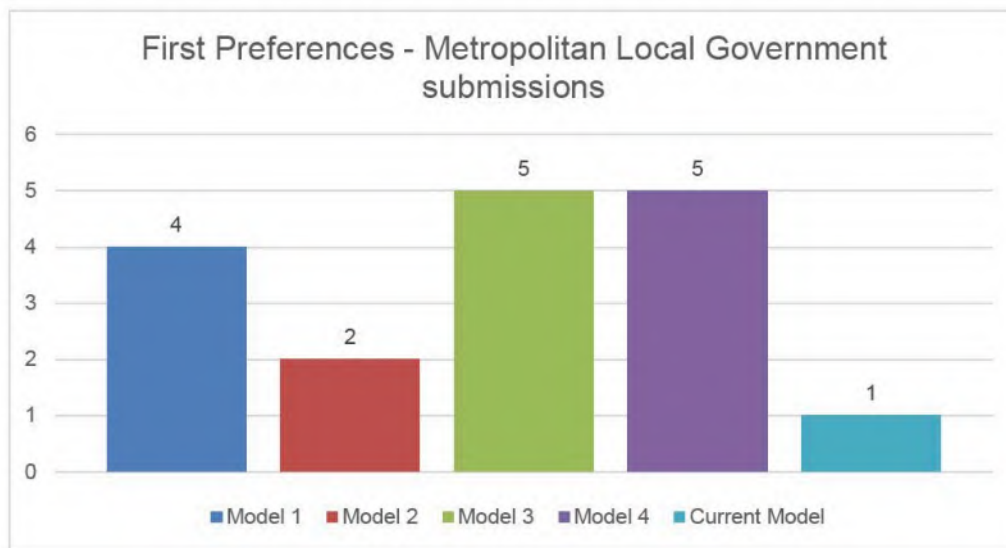


Figure 4: First Preferences - Metropolitan Local Government submissions

The Metropolitan preference for Models 3 and 4 differs from the 'all submissions' first preferences, albeit from a relatively small number of submissions. Similarly, the lack of first preference support for the Current Model (that is, only one first preference of the 17 first preferences) is different to the overall first preference total for the Current Model (being 38 percent of first preferences).

Metropolitan Local Governments are strongly in favour of change, with 15 of 16 (94 percent) submissions expressing a preference for a change option, and only one submission expressing a preference for the Current Model.

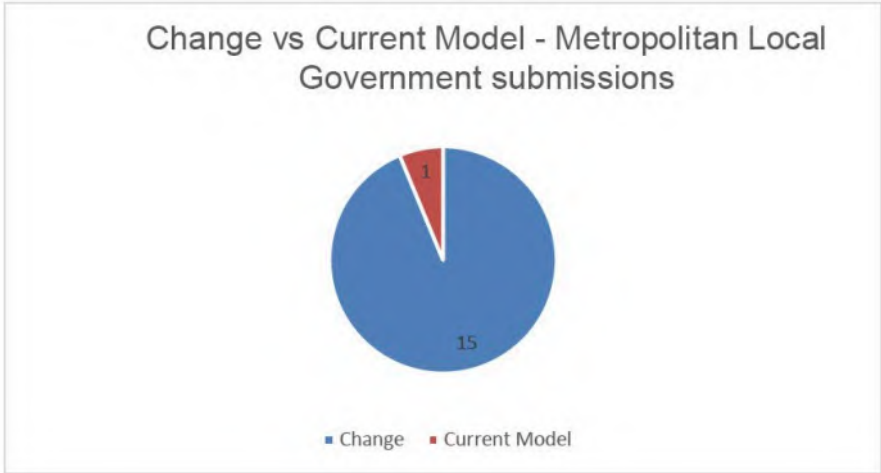


Figure 5: Change vs Current Model - Metropolitan Local Government submissions

Country Local Government Submissions

The remaining 77 submissions were from Country Local Governments, with three of these not including any preferences in relation to the five models, and one submission including two equal first preferences.

The 75 first preferences from Country Local Government submissions were mostly split between the Current Model and Model 1. As Figure 6 below shows, the Current Model was the most preferred amongst Country Local Government submissions with 34 first preferences, followed by Model 1 at 29 first preferences. Models 2, 3 and 4 each received six or fewer first preferences.

These results more closely align with the overall first preference total than the Metropolitan results because the 74 Country Local Government submissions with preferences represent 82 percent of all submissions including at least one preference.

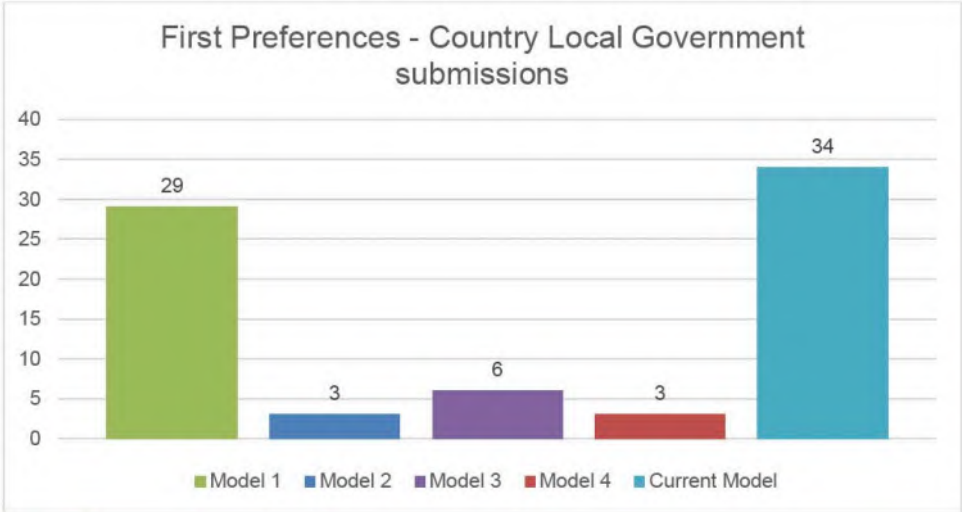


Figure 6: First Preferences - Country Local Government submissions

Country Local Governments were in favour of change with 40 submissions expressing a preference for a change option, compared with 33 expressing a preference for the Current Model. Submissions from the country are therefore split 55 percent to 45 percent in favour of change.

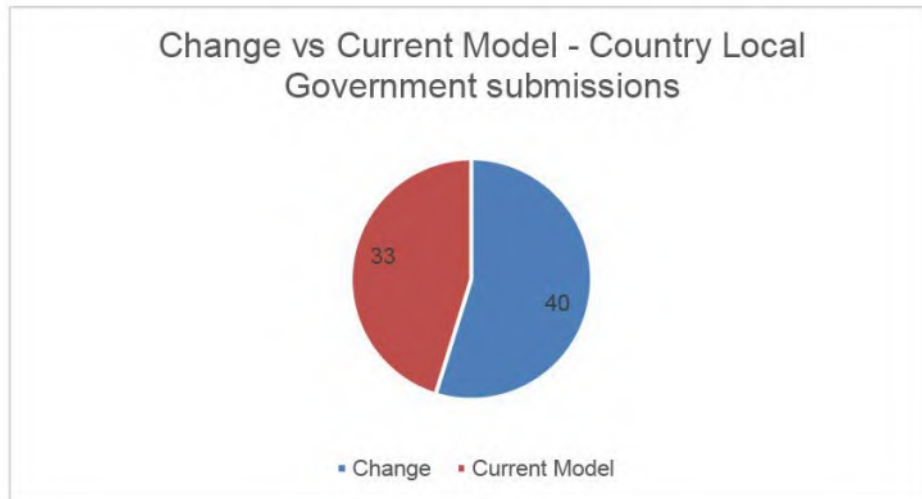


Figure 7: Change vs Current Model - Country Local Government submissions

All Preferences and Mean Ranking

All Submissions

A complete list of all preferences received in submissions are represented in the table below, ordered by lowest mean ranking. The distribution of preferences can be used to provide further insight. By treating each model's ranking as a score, a mean can be calculated, with the lowest mean score, closest to one, representing the sector's overall preference. That is, ranking a model first allocates it one point, ranking a model second allocates it two points, and so on. The ranking using this calculation is represented in the final column.

	First preference	Second preference	Third preference	Fourth preference	Fifth preference	Mean ranking
Model 1 – Two Tier Model, Existing Zones	33	14	5	9	0	1.84
Model 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones	11	11	18	7	0	2.45
Model 5 – Current Model	35	14	3	1	22	2.48
Model 2 – Board, Regional Bodies	5	12	7	14	2	2.90
Model 4 – Member Elected Board, Regional Groups	8	6	6	7	14	3.32

Table 9: All Preferences and Mean Ranking - all submissions

Model 1 has the best (lowest) mean ranking at 1.84, followed by Model 3 and then the Current Model (which are separated by just three one hundredths of a point). Despite having the highest number of first preferences, the Current Model is significantly less preferred overall in comparison to Model 1, due to receiving 22 fifth preferences (whilst Model 1 has no fifth preferences). Model 4 has the worst (highest) ranking with a mean score of 3.32.

Figure 8 below represents the mean ranking of all five models, with closest to one being most preferred.

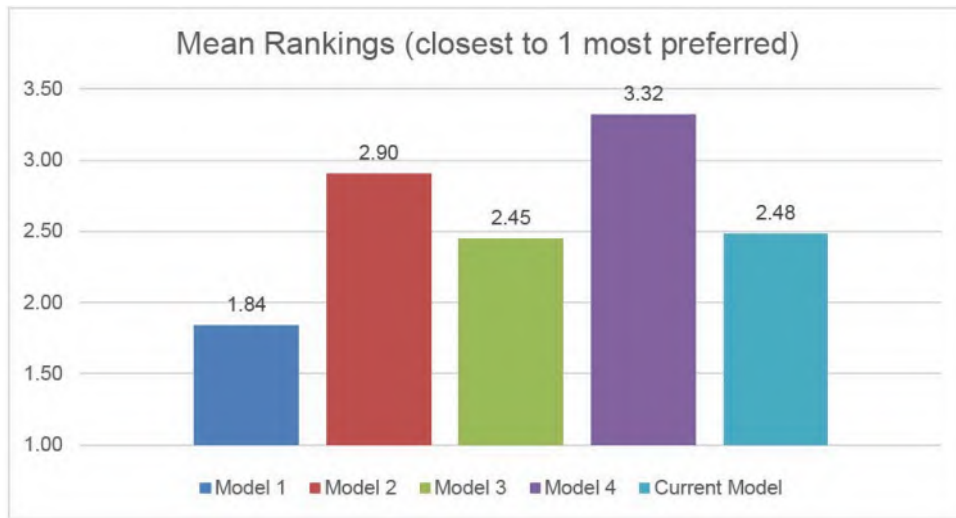


Figure 8: Mean Rankings (closest to 1 most preferred)

The allocation of preferences for each of the five models is shown graphically in Figure 9 below, noting that not all Local Governments allocated preferences to all models.

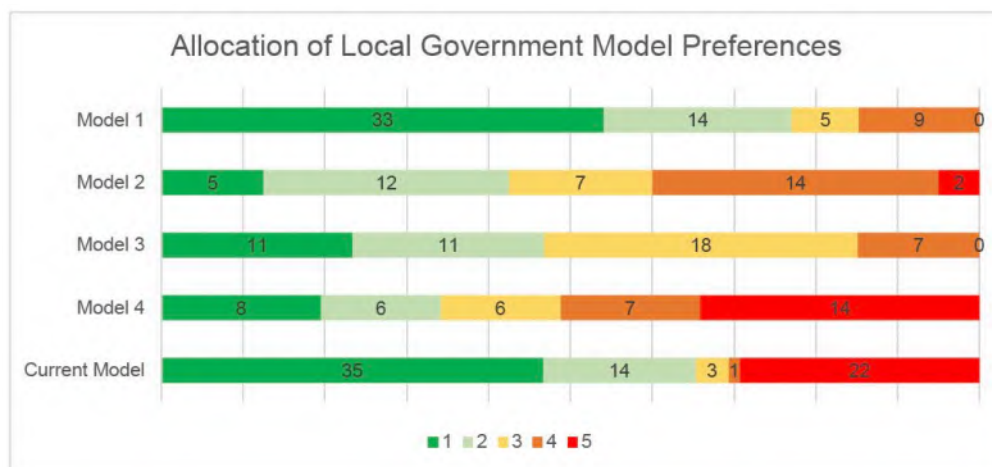


Figure 9: Allocation of Preferences - all submissions

Figure 10 below shows the allocation of preferences, including where preferences were not allocated. In this way, each line in the Figure 10 will account for 92 preferences, whereas in Figure 9, the sum of each line will be different, and less than 92.

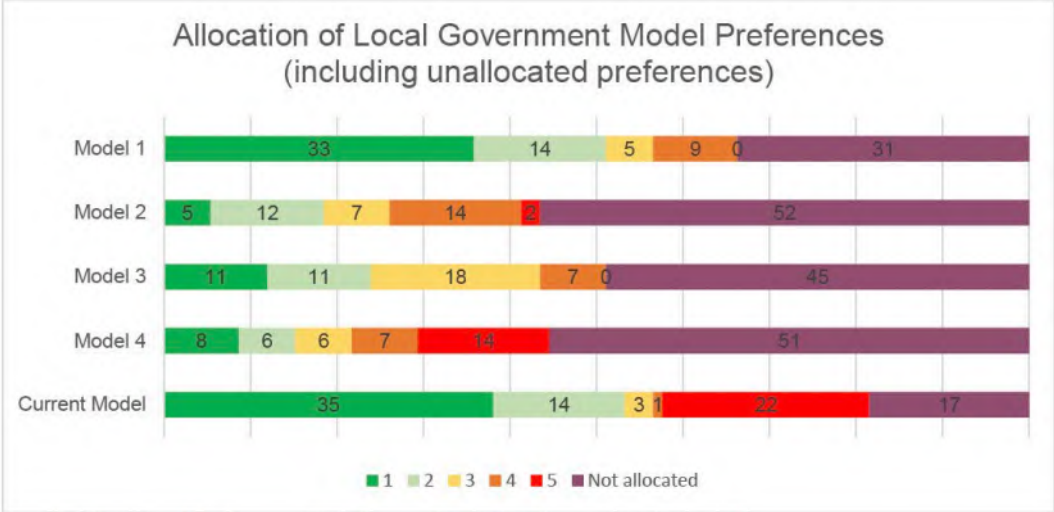


Figure 10: Allocation of Preferences (including unallocated preferences) - all submissions

As can be seen from the above, the Current Model is polarising, receiving the highest number of first preferences at 35 (38 percent) and 22 of 38 fifth preferences (representing 58 percent of all fifth preferences). Conversely, Model 1 received 33 first preferences (the second highest number of first preferences, representing 36 percent of first preferences) and received zero fifth preferences.

The high degree of polarisation relating to the Current Model is also reflected in the independent research undertaken by Ipsos.

Metropolitan Local Government Submissions

The complete table of preferences, including mean ranking, for the submissions with preferences received from Metropolitan Local Governments are shown in Table 10 and Figure 11 below.

	First preference	Second preference	Third preference	Fourth preference	Fifth preference	Mean ranking
Model 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones	5	4	3	1	0	2.00
Model 2 – Board, Regional Bodies	2	3	5	1	0	2.45
Model 1 – Two Tier Model, Existing Zones	4	1	1	6	0	2.75
Model 4 – Member Elected Board, Regional Groups	5	1	1	3	3	2.85
Model 5 – Current Model	1	2	1	0	8	4.00

Table 10: All Preferences and Mean Ranking - Metropolitan Local Government submissions

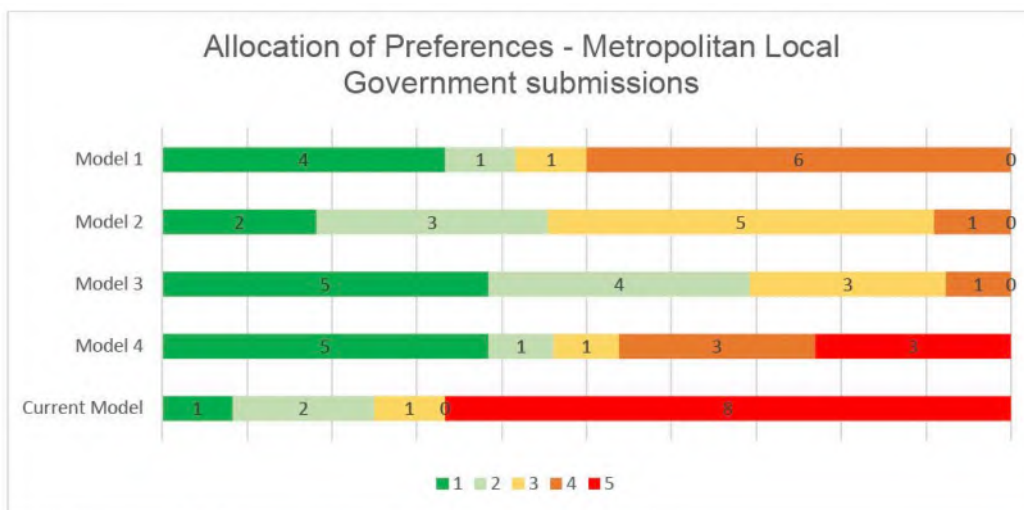


Figure 11: Allocation of Preferences - Metropolitan Local Government submissions

The Current Model is clearly the least popular option, as shown by the particularly poor (highest) mean ranking of 4.00. In addition, the Current Model accounts for most (73 percent) of the fifth preferences (with the other three fifth preferences going to Model 4, the second least preferred model by Metropolitan Local Governments based on mean rank). Model 3 has the best (lowest) mean rank of 2.00, with Model 2 second most preferred and Model 1 third most preferred among Metropolitan Local Governments utilising this method of analysis.

Country Local Government Submissions

The complete table of preferences, including mean ranking, for the submissions with preferences received from Country Local Governments are shown in Table 11 and Figure 12 below.

	First preference	Second preference	Third preference	Fourth preference	Fifth preference	Mean ranking
Model 1 – Two Tier Model, Existing Zones	29	13	4	3	0	1.61
Model 5 – Current Model	34	12	2	1	14	2.19
Model 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones	6	7	15	6	0	2.62
Model 2 – Board, Regional Bodies	3	9	2	13	2	3.07
Model 4 – Member Elected Board, Regional Groups	3	5	5	4	11	3.54

Table 11: All Preferences and Mean Rankings - Country Local Government submissions

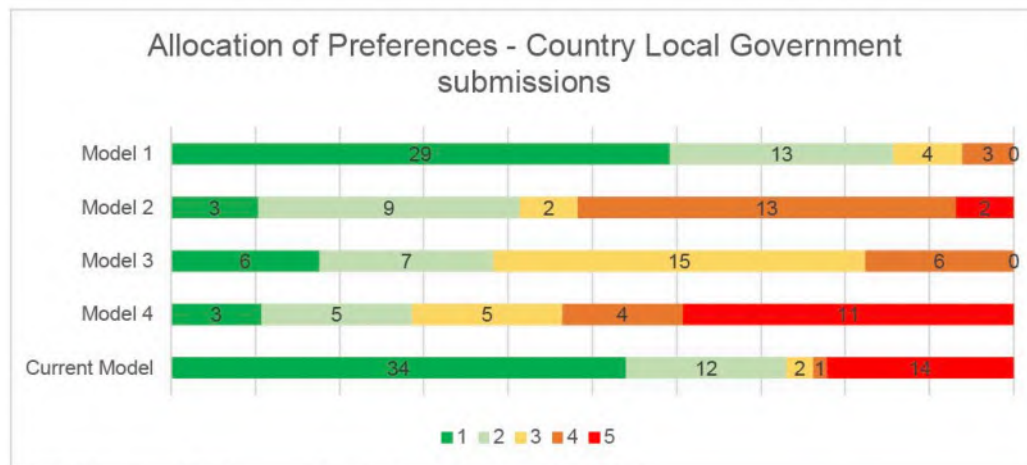


Figure 12: Allocation of Preferences - Country Local Government submissions

Model 1 comfortably has the best (lowest) mean ranking, and Model 4 has the worst (highest). Model 4 also has a high number of fifth preferences (11), with only the Current Model receiving more fifth preferences (14). This again highlights the polarisation of views in relation to the Current Model.

Local Government Responses – Two Option Preferred

Based on overall first preferences, the two most preferred model options are Model 1 and the Current Model.

To allow for more direct comparison of these two models, a ‘two option preferred’ method (utilising the instant-runoff voting method) has been used to analyse the submissions. This method allocates one preference from each Local Government that made a submission to either Model 1 or the Current Model, based on the comparative order of preference for these two models.

For example, where a submission ranked Model 1 as fourth preference and the Current Model as second preference, the preference from that Local Government is allocated to the Current Model (as the more preferred of the two).

As per Figure 13, of the 99 responses received, 43 preferred Model Option 1 (representing 43 percent), 40 preferred the Current Model (40 percent) and 16 did not give a preference to either of these models, including the nine Local Governments that did not provide any preferences in relation to the models.

The Shire of Perenjori preferred Model 1 and the Current Model equally, and other Local Governments that did not preference either model tended to prefer more significant change. The City of Armadale and the Shire of Coolgardie both only submitted a preference for Model 3, the City of Vincent and the City of Bayswater only submitted a preference for Model 4, and the City of Greater Geraldton submitted preferences for Models 2 and 3. Similarly, the City of Busseton did not allocate preferences to Model 1 or the Current Model on the basis that the Current Model is “no longer appropriate and needs change” and that Model 1 “is just another version of the same”.

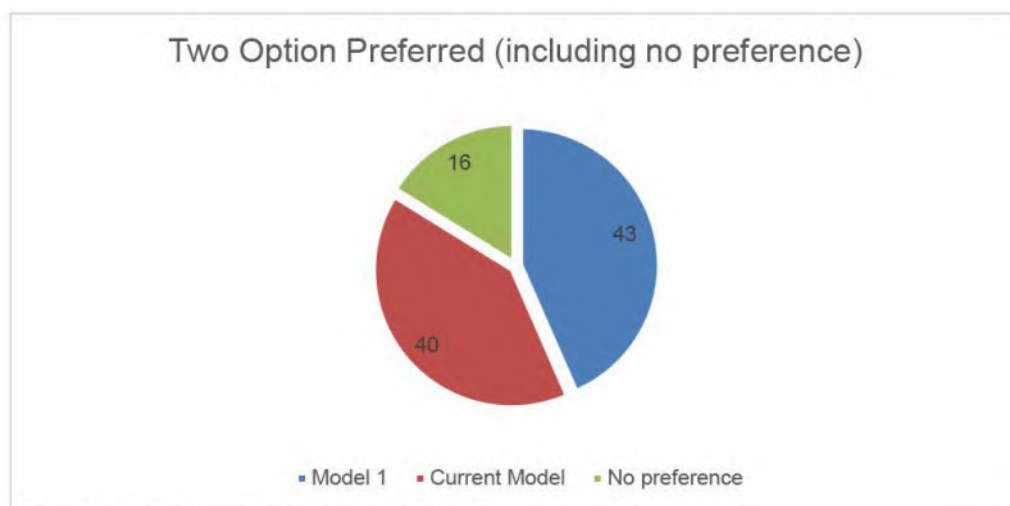


Figure 13: Two Option Preferred (including no preference)

Figure 14 on the following page shows the two option preferred data separated by individual Local Government (that is, the 83 Local Governments that expressed a preference between Model 1 and the Current Model) and organised based on Reported Annual Revenue (from smallest to largest). This shows a slight tendency among Local Governments with a smaller Annual Revenue to prefer the Current Model (shown in green), whilst Local Governments with a relatively larger annual revenue prefer Model 1 (shown in yellow), with 19 of the 25 largest Local Governments by Annual Revenue (76 percent) supporting Model 1 ahead of the Current Model. Endorsement of current arrangements with a set of responsibilities for the Forum of Co-Chairs to be developed (note the Forum of Co-Chairs no longer exists);

Two Option Preferred - by order of Reported Annual Revenue

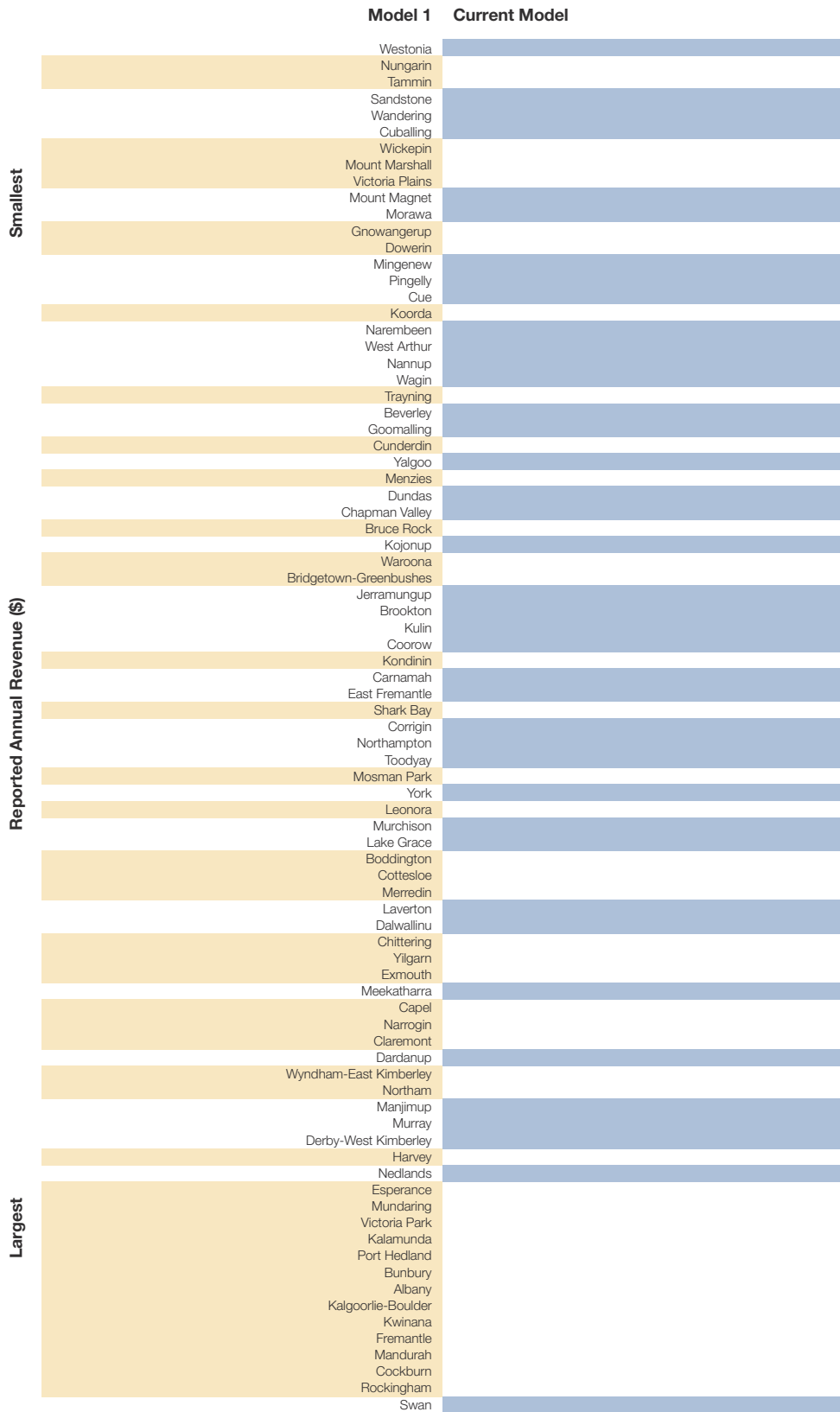


Figure 14: Two Option Preferred - by order of Reported Annual Revenue

Council Endorsed Submissions – Additional Comments

Of the 99 Member responses received, 26 included additional comments, which put forward a range of views in relation to several key topics.

Independent Members

There were five comments received from Local Governments relating to the proposal for independent members to be included in each of the four alternative models (that is, Models 1, 2, 3 and 4). Overall, the comments either rejected the proposal for independent members entirely, or proposed modifications or restrictions to the proposal.

The **Consultation Paper** state that the proposed independent member positions will be appointed by the Board as “independent, skills or constituency directors”.

The Shire of Cue, Shire of Yalgoo and City of Melville all outright rejected the suggestion of independent members in all four of the alternative model options. The Shire of Yalgoo gave further explanation for this position, citing the likelihood that the independent members would not be from regional areas and therefore “their experiences and positions will align with metropolitan board members”. The Shire of Yalgoo sees this as potentially strengthening the representation of metropolitan interests, and therefore weakening regional representation. Both the Shires of Cue and Yalgoo gave their first preference to the Current Model, whilst the City of Melville provided no preferences.

In contrast, the City of Mandurah and the Shire of Merredin both demonstrated general support for the independent member positions, but with the addition of further details in regard to appointment and voting power. The City of Mandurah suggested that the independent members should be “Elected Members of a member local government... [with] the relevant skills and competencies that have been identified by the Board as essential for these positions”. The Shire of Merredin suggested a maximum of two independent members in all alternative models (where Models 1, 2 and 4 as proposed give an allowance for up to 3 independent members), and that these positions be non-voting. Both the City of Mandurah and the Shire of Merredin allocated their first preference to Model 1.

Representation

Several Member comments were received which referred specifically to the importance of representation as an underlying Governance Principle.

The Shire of Chittering (with Model 1 as its first preference) framed the issue of representation with respect to SAT bands, suggesting that equal numbers of each of the four SAT bands should be “represented at all levels... to ensure the voices of small Local Governments are heard”.

The Town of East Fremantle (that gave its first and only preference to the Current Model) recommended “further consideration being given to a more balance[d] approach between metropolitan and regional representation”.

Both the Shires of Manjimup and Morawa also gave their first (and only) preference to the Current Model, citing the reason as being that they viewed all four of the alternative models as negatively impacting the current level of Member representation within WALGA. The Shire Yalgoo made similar remarks about a perceived reduction in regional representation posed by the alternative models. In particular, Yalgoo noted that “while there would still be a relatively even country/metro split there would not be high level representation from the majority of existing regional zones”.

As another Member in support of the Current Model, the Shire of Murchison praised the currently existing governance model for providing “an appropriate number and geographic spread of representatives”. With regards to the alternative models, the Shire of Murchison viewed these as potentially “centralis[ing] power” and “diminish[ing] regional representation”.

The Shires of Chapman Valley, Kojonup, Perenjori and York also highlighted the importance of country representation in their submissions.

Modifications to Models

Several Members commented specifically on particular model options, in some cases to suggest modifications or further detail to that provided in the Consultation Paper.

Model 1

The Shires of Capel, Shark Bay and Waroona all allocated their first preference to Model 1, and provided further commentary on the model. Both the Shires of Capel and Waroona suggested modifications to Model 1: the Shire of Capel suggested the Board be increased from the proposed 11 members (comprising 4 metropolitan, 4 country and up to 3 independent) to 15 members (6 metropolitan, 6 country, 2 independents), whilst the Shire of Waroona suggested that the President be elected by the Zones rather than by the Board (and that this be applied to whatever model is ultimately chosen). Rather than suggesting any changes, the Shire of Shark Bay simply commented on what they perceive as the positives of Model 1, in particular that it does not dilute regional representation, retains the Zones, aligns with the Governance Principles and will “deliver a reduction to meeting frequency and commitment”.

The Shire of Kulin preferred the Current Model first and allocated their second preference to a hybrid model that would include the Policy Council and Zones as proposed in Model 1, but with an enlarged Board of 12 representative members and up to two independent members.

Model 3

The Shire of Kondinin was one of only nine Members that gave their first preference to Model 3. Along with its preference, the Shire of Kondinin suggested that the arrangement of the country Zones in Model 3 be modified. The Shire of Bruce Rock similarly suggested a modification to the Zones proposed in Model 3, specifically to “merge Zones into pairs”. The Shire of Bruce Rock ranked Model 3 as its third preference, after Models 1 and 4.

Current Model

Commentary on the Current Model was mixed, consistent with the allocation of polarised preferences evident in Council endorsed submissions and the Ipsos research. The Shires of Wandering and Beverley gave their first preferences to the Current Model, but both suggested that the size of State Council be reduced. The Shire of Wandering specifically suggested 17 members including the President.

The Shire of Dumbleyung did not provide any preferences but submitted commentary suggesting that the current country Zones be retained and “repurposed to enable stronger focus and support for the delivery of regional strategic project priorities”.

Both the Shires of Goomalling and Murchison justified their support for the Current Model by questioning any need for change. Goomalling suggested that there was not “sufficient tangible evidence that change was required”, whilst the Shire of Murchison submitted that “the current processes are working well and nonetheless the proposed alternative model options “do not demonstrate any specific improvements that may otherwise warrant a change”.

The Shire of Pingelly gave their first and only preference to the Current Model, with suggestions for modifications to “reduce the number of voting delegates for the Zone to one and one deputy” and to “reform the representation and increase the use of the Policy Teams, Forums, and Committees, so that they directly feed into the Zone Agenda and that representation is drawn widely from member Zones impacted by a particular matter”.

Finally, the City of Busselton submitted preferences that did not include either Model 1 or the Current Model (preferring Models 2, 4 and 3, in that order). The City of Busselton submitted, as noted above, that the Current Model is “no longer appropriate and needs change” and that Model 1 “is just another version of the same”.

Review Purpose and Process

There was limited commentary regarding the purpose and process of the review, echoing some of the sentiments detected by Ipsos through their independent research.

The City of Stirling rejected the process and resolved to request WALGA to undertake a fully independent review.

The Shire of Broome resolved to request WALGA to review the role, functionality and value of the organisation whilst acknowledging its value to the Local Government sector.

The City of South Perth requested WALGA to “undertake workshops with member local governments to better understand the work undertaken by the Steering Committee and model options”.

Quantitative and Qualitative Research

Ipsos Public Affairs conducted an independent research study with Local Government Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers. Ipsos’s findings are contained in their report – Stakeholder Research on the Best Practice Governance Review and Model Preferences – which is included in this report as Appendix 3.

The aims of the research were to:

- Educate and collect feedback from stakeholders (Elected Members and CEOs) on the rationale for a revised governance model,
- Establish a perception benchmark of the WALGA Governance Review, and
- Collect comprehensive feedback on the proposed governance models and determine model preference.

Ipsos conducted 121 surveys and interviews with stakeholders in November and December 2022. This included 12 qualitative phone interviews and 109 quantitative surveys. The qualitative interviews were conducted with a small group of participants, chosen to ensure a split of Elected Members and CEOs from across the state.

Ipsos’s findings through the research project are broadly consistent with the Council endorsed submissions as detailed above.

Additional feedback from Local Governments highlighted representation, particularly of country Local Governments, as a key concern with the proposed models. Ipsos’s research confirms that WALGA being representative of Local Governments came out as the most important overarching principle.

Consistent with Council endorsed submissions, Ipsos found Model 1 to be the most preferred model in three of four voting methods: instant run-off voting, mean ranking, and ranked pairs. The Current Model was most preferred utilising a first-past-the-post voting method in Ipsos's study, whereas Model 1 is most preferred utilising a first-past-the-post method when tallying Council endorsed submissions.

Ipsos found significant polarisation in relation to the current model: 32 percent of respondents ranked the current model as their first preference out of the five models, and 37 percent of respondents ranked the current model as their last preference of the five models. Ipsos concluded that close to four in 10 stakeholders will be upset with the decision if the current model remains in place at the end of 2023.

Model 3 was more highly ranked through Ipsos's study than in Council endorsed submissions. This may be due to the Ipsos's survey methodology that forced respondents to allocate preferences to all five models, as opposed to Council endorsed submissions where Councils decided to express between one and five preferences.

Respondents to Ipsos raised questions relating to the detail of models in practice and the appointment and role of independent members. These issues were also raised through Council endorsed submissions as per the Additional Comments section above.

Ipsos's report also contains insights to guide the project going forward, in terms of risks and opportunities. The section – From Insights to Action – provides crucial guidance for WALGA to achieve successful outcomes from the Best Practice Governance Review project.

Conclusion

WALGA's members were generally well engaged with the consultation process for the Best Practice Governance Review, as demonstrated by the relatively large number of submissions, representing 71 percent of WALGA's membership, the invitations to present at Council forums, Zone meetings and other forums, and participation and discussion during the webinar, at Zone meetings, and in response to presentations on the consultation paper.

As per Figure 3, First preferences from Council endorsed submissions demonstrate majority support for change (62 percent to 38 percent) with strongest support for the Current Model, which received 35 first preferences (38 percent of first preferences) and Model 1, which received 33 first preferences (36 percent of first preferences).

Council endorsed submissions demonstrate that Model 1 is the most preferred of the five models utilising the mean ranking method of analysis (1.84 compared to 2.48 for the Current Model which ranked third using this approach). Model 1 received the second highest number of first preferences (33, compared to 35 for the Current Model) and notably received zero fifth preferences. Support for Model 1 from Council endorsed submissions is further demonstrated by the two option preferred findings, with 43 percent of respondents supporting Model 1 compared to 40 percent indicating support for the Current Model, and 16 percent providing no preference between the two models, including a number of Local Governments in favour of change. Strong support for Model 1 is confirmed by the research undertaken by Ipsos, who found Model 1 to be the most preferred utilising three of four voting analysis techniques: instant run-off voting, mean ranking, and ranked pairs.

Analysis of Council endorsed submissions suggests the Current Model is the most preferred model by counting first preferences (35 for the Current Model compared to 33 for Model 1). Responses from Local Governments were highly polarised: while 35 first preferences were received for the Current Model, 22 Local Governments, of 38 that allocated preferences to all five models, allocated their fifth preference to the Current Model (representing 58 percent of fifth preferences). Polarisation of views in relation to the Current Model is a key finding of the research undertaken by Ipsos, who concluded that close to four in 10 stakeholders will be upset if the Current Model remains. Supporters of the Current Model are typically concerned about representation of particularly country Local Governments as part of WALGA's governance model. This hypothesis is supported by Ipsos's findings and the additional comments provided through Council endorsed submissions. Detractors of the Current Model want change to be made to WALGA's governance model and this hypothesis is supported by Ipsos's findings and aligns with previous Member research identified as a driver for undertaking the Best Practice Governance Review.

There is limited support among WALGA's members for Models 2, 3, and 4. Each of these models received 11 or fewer first preferences and were all ranked after Model 1 and either close to (in the case of Model 3), or after, the Current Model when utilising the mean ranking approach.

Larger Local Governments have a preference for change to be made to WALGA's governance model, as demonstrated by Figure 14 showing a two-option preference by order of annual revenue. In addition, Metropolitan Local Governments would also prefer change, as demonstrated by the mean ranking close to four shown in Table 10 and first preferences in favour of change shown in Figure 5. Dissatisfaction with the current model, particularly among larger Local Governments, and Metropolitan Local Governments, represents a significant strategic risk for WALGA. Without reform to the governance model, disengagement from the organisation is likely from these membership cohorts.

As the project progresses into stages four and five, there are opportunities for further Member engagement and leadership with the Local Government sector. The research undertaken by Ipsos and additional comments put forward by Local Governments in their Council endorsed submissions suggest, if the governance model is to be reformed, there are some concerns about the detail and implementation of change amongst WALGA's members.




RECOMMENDED DIRECTION

The Steering Committee considered the Council-endorsed submissions as well as the findings contained in the Ipsos Stakeholder Research Project report (Appendix 3) at its meeting on 23 January 2023. The Committee met again on 21 February 2023 to develop detail relating to Model 1 to make a recommendation to State Council.

The Steering Committee recommends to State Council that WALGA's governance model be amended in accordance with the roles and processes outlined below, broadly in accordance with Model 1.

Model 1 – Details

Overview

GOVERNANCE BODY	STRUCTURE	ROLE
 BOARD	Up to 11 Board members, comprising 8 representative members being the President, the Deputy President and 6 members elected from and by State Council (3 metropolitan, 3 country). The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors. The Board would meet 6 times per year.	The Board will be responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy/strategic planning, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities and employment of the CEO. The Board can form Committees, which would have responsibility for specific functions, such as policy development, the Honours Program, and selection and nominations to Boards and Committees. The Board is required to consult with State Council on the Strategic Plan and the annual State Budget submission. The Board will follow a consensus decision-making process.
 STATE COUNCIL	24 State Council members plus the President. State Councillors are elected from and by the Zones (12 from Metropolitan Zones, 12 from Country Zones). State Council would meet at least 3 times per year.	The role of the State Council will be to elect the President, Deputy President and members to the Board, initiate and contribute to policy positions and advocacy for input into the Board, and to liaise with Zones and Members on policy and advocacy. State Council meetings will make decisions by way of voting.
 ZONES	5 Metropolitan Zones, 12 Country Zones, meeting at least 3 times per year.	Zones would have the same role as they currently do, that is to raise policy issues, elect representatives to the State Council, provide guidance to their State Council representative, regional cooperation and information sharing, and undertake regional advocacy and projects as directed by the Zone.

The table above provides an overview of the proposed governance model including the role of each governance layer.

The model has several inherent accountabilities. The President, Deputy President and Board Members are elected from and by the State Council every two years, providing State Council with significant input into the membership of the board. Further, eight members of State Council will occupy dual roles as State Councillors and Board Members, solidifying the link between State Council and the Board.

The Board will be required to consult with State Council in regards to the corporate strategy or strategic plan, and the annual State Budget submission, and will be able to consult with State Council on any other matter.

Roles and Responsibilities

President

State Council shall elect a President from amongst its members. The President is the Chair and an exofficio (non-voting) member of State Council, and is the Chair and voting member of the Board. The President's role is a key one within the Association. The President is considered both the "lead" State Councillor and Board member, utilising experience, skills and leadership abilities to facilitate governance processes.

The responsibilities of the President are to:

- Represent and advocate the decisions of the Board
- Act as a link between meetings with the Board, State Council and Association management
- Be the interface of WALGA with external stakeholders
- Act as a spokesperson as required, in consultation with the CEO
- Develop an effective working relationship with the CEO
- Ensure timely and accurate dissemination of information to the Board
- Establish Working Groups, as required, to report directly to the Board

The President will be limited to serving two terms, up to a total of four years, as is currently the case.

Deputy President

The Deputy President is elected by State Council to ensure continuity of operation for the Association in the event that the President is either absent or temporarily unable to fulfil their responsibilities. In such circumstances, the Deputy President shall undertake the roles and responsibilities of the President. The Deputy President in exercising the roles and responsibilities of the President is to be mindful that the position is temporary and to work within the current direction of the Association.

The Deputy President is a Board Member and a State Councillor, and has responsibilities in those roles.

The Deputy President will be elected from the alternate constituency to the President and will be limited to serving two terms, up to a total of four years, as is currently the case.

Board

The Board is the governing board of WALGA, responsible for all matters relating to the management and affairs of the Association, including:

- Primarily, to govern the successful operation of the Association through the CEO and senior management
- Monitoring financial management, including the annual budget and annual subscriptions
- At least once a year, causing the Association's accounts to be audited by a person or persons appointed by the Board
- Monitoring and controlling compliance and organisational performance
- Ensuring effective identification, assessment and management of risk
- Developing, evaluation and succession of the Chief Executive Officer
- Approving the use of the common seal of the Association
- Strategy and strategic planning, subject to consulting with State Council
- Policy development (involving State Council) and endorsement

- Endorsement of advocacy priorities
- Endorsement of the annual State Budget submission, subject to consultation with State Council
- Ensuring effective communication and liaison with Members and stakeholders
- Constitutional amendments for consideration by members at a general meeting
- Expulsion of Ordinary and Associate members
- Awarding Local Government Honours (delegated to the Honours Panel)
- Overseeing the nomination and selection process for Local Government vacancies on Boards and Committees (delegated to the Selection Committee)

All Board Members, including independent members, will be limited to four terms in the role, up to a total of eight years, and remuneration will be paid to Board Members in accordance with industry standards and the workload of the role.

The responsibilities of the Board do not include responsibility for running the business of the Association. All operation matters remain the responsibility of the CEO.

The Board may from time to time as it deems necessary or expedient appoint, delegate or refer to any person or committee any of its powers, duties and functions as it thinks fit, except the powers to:

- Acquire, hold and dispose of real property
- Borrow money
- Set subscriptions levels

Independent Board Members

The Board may choose to appoint up to three independent members, who will have the duties and obligations of a Board Member. At their first meeting following election by State Council, the Board will complete skills and diversity matrices and determine:

- skills or diversity gaps to be filled by independent members; and
- the process for filling the positions, such as through the Selection Committee process.

Independent Board Member positions may be filled by Elected Members, but State Councillors will not be eligible to be appointed as Independent Board Members.

State Council

State Council is responsible for:

- Initiating, reviewing, and contributing to policy positions for consideration by the Board
- Advocacy to the Board, and contributing to advocacy priorities
- Liaising with Zones and Members on policy and advocacy
- Giving consideration to any direction or decision made by members at an AGM
- Input into the focus and contents of WALGA's annual State Budget submission
- Contributing to WALGA's Strategic Plan and Corporate Strategy

The main focus of State Council is policy and advocacy for the Association, with the ultimate decision-making powers resting with the Board. Therefore, all decisions of State Council require endorsement by the Board to become a WALGA policy or advocacy position.

State Councillors will not be term limited, and will continue to receive an annual allowance.

Zones

As per current arrangements, there will be five metropolitan and 12 country Zones. Each member of a Zone shall be entitled to be represented by a delegate or delegates elected or appointed by the member to represent its interests. Zones shall determine the number of delegates to which each member is entitled to be represented by on the Zone.

The function of each Zone shall be:

- Electing a representative(s) and deputy representative(s) to State Council;
- Providing guidance to the representative(s) on State Council;
- Raising policy matters for State Council;
- Regional cooperation and information sharing; and
- Any other functions deemed appropriate by the members of the Zone.

WALGA will continue to provide secretariat services for Zones as requested.

Delegated Committees, Policy Teams and Policy Forums

Delegated Committees

With the establishment of the Board, the Finance & Services Committee and the CEO Performance Review Committee will be abolished, with these responsibilities to be undertaken by the Board. The positions on the Honours Panel and Selection Committee currently reserved for State Councillors will be changed to Board positions. The Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) will remain unchanged.

Policy Teams

The Board will have the power to form Policy Teams to assist in policy development. Membership of the Policy Teams will be drawn from State Council.

Local Government House Trust (LGHT)

Under current arrangements, two State Councillors serve on the LGHT Board of Management. These positions will be changed to Board Member positions.

Working Groups

The President will have the power to form Working Groups as and when needed.

Election Process

Board Members

The President and the Deputy President are elected by State Council. The additional six representative members are elected by and from the State Council, with three from the metropolitan constituency and three from the country constituency. The Board can also appoint up to three independent, skills or constituency members. The appointment process for independent member positions will be decided by the Board.

State Councillors

State Council members are elected by and from the Zones (12 from the metropolitan Zones, 12 from the country Zones). State Council then elect a President (ex-officio, non-voting member) and a Deputy President from its members. An additional State Council member is then elected by and from the President's Zone. The constitutional requirements for the President to alternate between the metropolitan and country constituencies, and for the President and Deputy President to represent different constituencies, will continue.

Zone Delegates

Zone delegates would be elected by Councils to the Zone as per current practice.

All the above positions will be elected for two-year terms.

Administrative Arrangements

Publication of Agendas and Minutes

State Council Agendas and Minutes will continue to be distributed to all Members and published on the WALGA website (with confidential content redacted). Agendas and Minutes from Policy Team, Working Group and Delegated Committee meetings will be provided to State Council and the Board. Board Agendas and Minutes will be provided to State Council.

Observers at Meetings

State Council meetings and Board meetings will continue to be open to observers from any Member Local Government (senior officers and Elected Members). The Board will have the ability to meet behind closed doors to deal with confidential matters.

Consultation Process

State Council will continue to consider Zone feedback in relation to State Council Agenda items along with the composite recommendations in the Revised Agenda. Similarly, State Council resolutions and feedback will be incorporated into the Board Agenda for consideration.

Zone Secretariat Support

The WALGA secretariat will continue to provide secretariat support for Zones if requested.

Recommendation to State Council

The Steering Committee put forward the recommendation below to State Council for consideration at its meeting on 1 March 2023.

The revised Model 1, as outlined above, aligns with:

- The principles endorsed by State Council and WALGA's members at the 2022 Annual General Meeting
- Member feedback, as detailed in this report, and
- The independent research undertaken by Ipsos, included in this report as Appendix 3.

The recommended amendments to the governance model aim to balance concerns regarding representation with a desire for change evident in Council endorsed submissions and in the research undertaken by Ipsos. Ultimately, the overarching goal of the Best Practice Governance Review is to ensure WALGA is well placed to deliver strong, clear, focused, and consistent policy positions, drive advocacy impact on behalf of the Local Government sector and embed agility and responsiveness.

RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. **The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received;**
2. **The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be endorsed;**
3. **Members be engaged on the detail of the model; and**
4. **Constitutional changes be developed for consideration at the July 2023 State Council meeting.**

State Council Decision

State Council, at their meeting on 1 March 2023, considered the Steering Committee's Final Report and recommendation, and resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION

That:

1. **The Best Practice Governance Review Stage 3 Final Report be received;**
2. **The proposed changes to WALGA's governance structure as per the revised Model 1, detailed in the Stage 3 Final Report, be noted;**
3. **Members be engaged on the detail of the model and a Final Report be presented to the May 2023 State Council meeting for consideration;**
4. **Any recommendation to the 2023 AGM include Option 5 as the Current Model and Option 1 as an alternative to the Current Model; and**
5. **Subject to points 1, 2, 3 and 4 above, constitutional changes be developed for consideration by State Council.**

Next Steps

As per point 3 of State Council's 1 March resolution, feedback is sought from Members in relation to the proposed model (as detailed in the Recommended Direction section of this Report). Feedback can be provided to associationgovernance@walga.asn.au.

An Agenda item will be included in the May State Council Agenda for consideration by Zones and State Council. Feedback received by Friday, 31 March will be included in the Agenda item for Zone meetings. Feedback received after 31 March, but before Friday, 21 April, will be provided to State Council directly.

After consideration by State Council at the May meeting, the Best Practice Governance Review will move into Stage 4, the drafting of governance documents.

Amendments to the Constitution will be developed to be considered by State Council at their July 2023 meeting, followed by WALGA's members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Significant Member engagement on the detail of the model, as outlined in this report, will be undertaken during this stage of the project, including correspondence and presentations to members.



Appendix 1 – Background Paper

The contents slide for the background paper. It features the WALGA logo in the bottom left corner. The title "Contents" is in blue. Below it is a table with three columns: "Item", "Section", and "Page". The table lists four items: 1. Background, Approach and Timeline (page 3), 2. Jurisdictional Analysis (page 6), 3. Comparator Organisations (page 9), and 4. Governance Principles (page 17). A decorative graphic of blue and yellow diagonal stripes is in the top right corner. A small number "2" is in the bottom right corner.

Item	Section	Page
1	Background, Approach and Timeline	3
2	Jurisdictional Analysis	6
3	Comparator Organisations	9
4	Governance Principles	17





Best Practice Governance Review

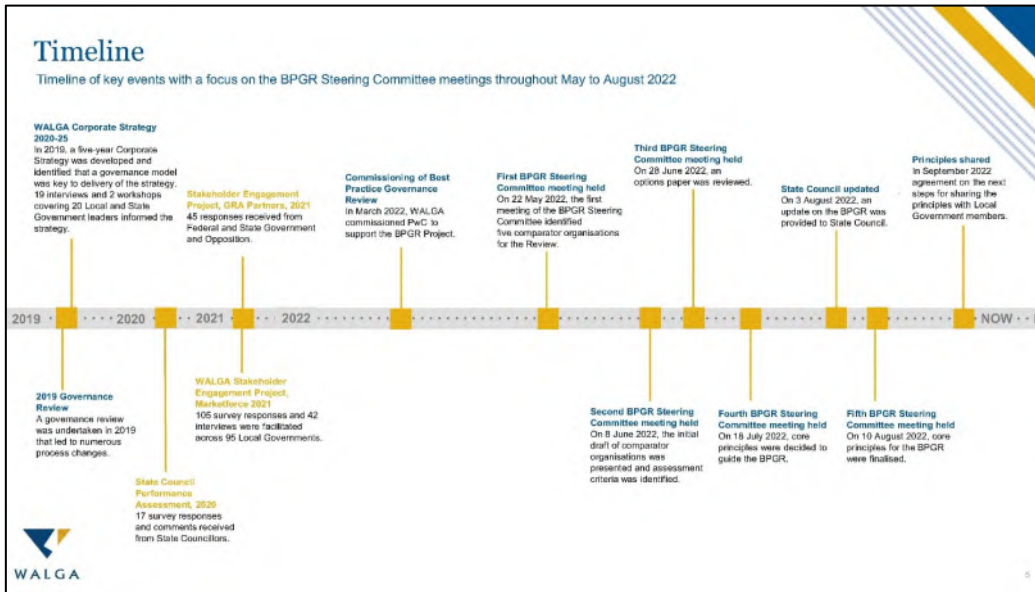
1. Background, Approach and Timeline

Background and Approach

Background and approach that led to the development of the governance principles for the Best Practice Governance Review.

Background	This document
<p>The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) developed its Corporate Strategy 2020-25, and in doing so identified a key strategic priority, to undertake a Best Practice Governance Review. The objective of the review is to ensure WALGA's governance and engagement models are contemporary, agile, and maximise engagement with members. Other drivers for the review included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misalignment between key governance documents; Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, State Council Code of Conduct, and Standing Orders – stemming from varying amendments. • State Council's 3 September 2021 resolution requesting amendment to the Constitution to "deal with matters related to State Councillors' Candidature for State and Federal elections". • Proposed legislative reforms to remove WALGA from being constituted under the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> (WA). • Constitutional requirements for WALGA to become a registered organisation under the <i>Industrial Relations Act 1979</i> (WA), which would enable WALGA to make applications in its own right to the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission <p>In March 2022 State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR) and established a Steering Committee to guide the Review.</p> <p>The BPGR Steering Committee had its first meeting on 5 May 2022. There was wide-ranging discussion on WALGA's current governance model, the need to engage broadly with the membership, and opportunities for change. At the meeting, five comparator organisations were identified to be used in a governance model comparative analysis. Steering Committee meetings 2 to 5 had a focus on the development of governance model principles.</p>	<p>This document presents the key insights from the jurisdictional and comparator organisation analysis that supported the development of the governance principles. The final section presents the endorsed governance principles.</p> <p>Jurisdictional Analysis – This section compares WALGA to equivalent jurisdictional associations (e.g. LGASA). This provides key insights into the size and election processes of WALGA compared to equivalent associations.</p> <p>Comparator Organisations – This section compares WALGA's governance arrangements to five comparator organisations that were agreed at the BPGR Steering Committee meeting 1. This provides key insights into the size, election processes and recent governance changes of these five comparator organisations.</p> <p>Governance Model Principles – The governance model principles were developed through BPGR Steering Committee meetings 2 to 5. This provides a structure for understanding how the current governance model of WALGA and any future governance model aligns to these principles.</p> <p>The following slide outlines the timeline of key events and meetings that formed part of the BPGR.</p>





Best Practice Governance Review

2. Jurisdictional Analysis



Analysis: Jurisdictional equivalents to WALGA

Jurisdictional equivalents of WALGA have been analysed according to their size and election methods.

Background

Prior to the BPGR Project commencing in March 2022, work was undertaken to understand governance arrangements in other jurisdictions. The focus of this work was on associations from other Australian states, as well as New Zealand.

The full list of associations are:

- Local Government NSW (LGNSW)
- Municipal Association Victoria (MAV)
- Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT)
- Local Government Association of South Australia (LGASA)
- Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)
- Local Government Association of Northern Territory (LGANT)
- Local Government Association of New Zealand (LGNZ)

The assessment of these associations focused on providing insights into the following domains:

- **Size of Board:** How many board members are there in comparison to the 25 WALGA board members?
- **Method of Election of President:** How is the President elected to the board?
- **Method of Election of Board Members:** How are board members elected?

Key Insights

Key insights following the comparison of WALGA to equivalent associations are outlined below:

- **Size of Board** – while WALGA’s board (State Council) contains the largest number of representatives, it can be seen that boards of Local Government Associations tend to be relatively large. The average board size (using Queensland’s policy executive, not board) is 15.4.
- **Method of Election of President** – WALGA is an outlier; all other Presidents are elected directly by the membership. Perhaps this is a reflection of the prevalence of Council elected Mayors and Presidents in WA.
- **Method of Election of Board Members** – The majority of associations use regional groupings (equivalent to our Zones) to elect board members. The New Zealand hybrid model of electing representatives from geographic zones and sector groups (metro, provincial, rural, regional) is of interest.

The following slide presents this information for each of the seven associations.

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Summary: Jurisdictional equivalents to WALGA

Summary of jurisdictional analysis of WALGA equivalents in relation to their Board membership, election methods and number of Local Governments.

LGANT

- 9 Board Members
- President elected by Members (AGM)
- Board Members elected by Members
- 22 Local Governments

WALGA

- 25 Board Members
- President elected by the Board
- Board Members elected by Zones
- 139 Local Governments

LGASA

- 10 Board Members
- President elected by Members (postal vote)
- Board Members elected by Regional Organisations
- 74 Local Governments

LGAT

- 8 Board Members
- President elected by Members (postal vote)
- Board Members elected by Zone equivalent
- 29 Local Governments

LGNSW

- 19 Board Members
- President elected by Members (AGM)
- Board Members elected by Members
- 128 Local Governments

MAV

- 13 Board Members
- President elected by Members (AGM)
- Board Members elected by Zone equivalent
- 89 Local Governments

LGNZ

- 18 Board Members
- President elected by Members (AGM)
- Board Members elected by Zones and Sector Groups
- 78 Local Governments

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Best Practice Governance Review

3. Comparator Organisations

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Comparator organisations

Comparison of WALGA's governance model to the governance models of five comparator organisations.

Background	Process
<p>The BPCR Steering Committee had its first meeting on the 5 May 2022. There was wide-ranging discussion on WALGA's current governance model, the need to engage broadly with the membership, and opportunities for change.</p> <p>At the meeting, five comparator organisations were identified to be used in a governance model comparative analysis. The organisations were selected on the basis of their similarity to WALGA as WA member-based peak industry organisations.</p> <p>The selected organisations were: Australian Medical Association (AMA) WA, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) WA, Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME), Australian Hotels Association (AHA) WA and Pharmacy Guild (PG) WA Branch.</p>	<p>WALGA supplied a range of background documents to assist in undertaking the initial desktop comparison. This included the Constitution, Corporate Governance Charter, Corporate Strategy 2020-2025, Standing Orders, Elected Member Prospectus, Flow Chart – WALGA Zone and State Council Process, Final Report – State Councils and Zone Structure and Process Working Group.</p> <p>The documentation used for the comparator organisations were typically the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution – which serves as the instrument for establishment of the association; • Annual reports – which contains information about an association's performance over a 12-month period; and • Organisational website – which may outline the structure and current composition of the board, council and the leadership team of the organisations. <p>Interviews were successfully arranged with three of the five organisations. They were AMA WA, CCI WA and CME WA. The document analysis and interviews provided insights into the size, election methods and recent changes within these organisations.</p>

Key Insights

Key insights through the comparison of WALGA to the five comparator organisations are outlined below:

- **Size of Board** – WALGA's board (State Council) was larger than all other comparator organisation's boards.
- **Election methods** – election methods varied across the comparator organisations but many involved election through the membership.
- **Change** – three of the five organisations had recently undergone changes or reviews of their governance structures. There were a range of drivers for this change including: to increase the decision making ability of the board; to use specific working groups to focus on specific topics of interest and to increase representativeness of specific groups (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders).

The following slide presents summary information on the size and election methods of the five comparator organisations. This is then followed by more detailed background into each organisation, their governance structure and any outcomes from conversations with these organisations.

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Summary: Governance structure analysis

WALGA's governance structure was analysed in comparison to five comparator organisations

Organisational Comparisons	Number of Board Members	President Elected by	Board Members elected by
WA Local Government Association (WALGA)	25	The Board	Zones
Australian Medical Association (AMA)	9	AMA WA Members	Members of the Association
Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA (CCIWA)	7 to 10	The Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 12 elected by Members Up to 8 appointed by the Board Up to 8 appointed by the Council
Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME)	6 to 11	Ordinary Members	Executive Councillors
Australian Hotels Association (AHA) WA	17	The Branch Committee of Management	The Branch Committee of Management
Pharmacy Guild (PG) – WA branch	16 to 22	The Branch	Financial Members from the same region as the Branch

Note: The Council, Branch, or Board chosen from the organisations above were chosen for how appropriate their structure is as a comparison to the WALGA State Council.

Organisational Analysis: Australian Medical Association (AMA) WA

With over 5,000 members, the AMA (WA) is the largest independent professional organisation for medical practitioners and medical students in the State. Total revenue and other income for AMA nationally in 2020 was reported as \$21,928,000.

Organisational Information	Governance Structure*
<p>The AMA (WA) Board was created in 2017 and is comprised of the President, Immediate Past President, two Vice Presidents and five members of Council who are elected to sit on the Board (9 in total).</p> <p>The AMA (WA) Council consists of four office bearers (President, Immediate Past President, two Vice Presidents). Additionally, there are the Speciality Group Representatives (e.g. General practice, surgery); Practice Group Representatives (e.g. rural doctors, public hospital doctors); Ordinary Council Members; and, Co-opted Council Members. Majority of the representatives and members represent their speciality (e.g. anaesthetics) or group of representative (e.g. medical student society).</p> <p>The AMA Federal Council meets quarterly and is the AMA's main policy-making body. It is a forum to identify and debate emerging issues of relevance to the membership. The Federal Council's primary role is to: Form the policy of the AMA; Propose changes to existing policy; and Elect representatives to roles and committees. There is one State and one Area nominee from WA on the Federal Council.</p> <p>The Leadership team consists of seven staff, CEO, CFO, COO, General Manager Training and Recruitment, Operations Manager, General Manager Financial Services and an HR manager.</p>	<p>The Board comprises of approximately 9 members.</p> <p>The Board may increase or decrease the number of Advisory Council members as needed. However, it currently has 4 members.</p> <p>The Board and Council is also supported by Speciality Group Representatives, Practice Group Representatives, Ordinary Council Members, and Co-Opted Council Members.</p> <p>The Board focuses on governance, managing the Association's conduct and business, and ensuring conformity with the constitution.</p> <p>The General Council focuses on advocacy, policy making, and representation of the association.</p>
<h4>Outcomes of Organisation Discussion</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance Review: The 2020 annual report mentions that an organisation-wide review was undertaken with the transformation in the process of being implemented until March 2020 (COVID). Representation: It is more important to restrict the number of Board members than Councillors. Board members are involved in making policy and governance decisions, requiring a greater decision-making capability. Councillors are more involved in stakeholder engagement and solving specific issues through working groups, therefore Council size has less impact to efficiency and effectiveness of the model. Engagement: The president is the spokesperson when it comes to policy issues. Councillors represent the views of Speciality Groups, Practice Groups, and the medical profession as a whole. Feedback on the current model: Board members have previously taken the role because they are passionate, but do not necessarily have the right expertise, resulting in poor governance. Board members who have leadership and governance experience have proven to be effective in the updated model. The Board would benefit from an independent audit partner and increased diversity in speciality, a simplified purpose of the Board and Council Advisory, and a reduced number of meetings each year. <p><small>*The AMA WA Constitution does not specify the number of Board or Council members. Member numbers are indicative and have been taken from the current Board & Council.</small></p>	



Organisational Analysis: Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) WA

CCIWA is a not-for-profit member organisation providing information, professional services and support for businesses in Western Australia, with over 2,000 WA members. Total revenue and other income for 2021 was reported as \$34,270,130.

Organisational Information	Governance Structure
<p>The CCIWA operates as a company limited by guarantee. This came into effect on 11 January 2019. The change in status means that CCIWA is now incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) rather than the State legislation covering incorporated associations.</p> <p>Based on the constitution, the number of board members can be between 9-12 (including President & Vice President). The current board has only 6 members including the President and Vice President.</p> <p>There is a General Council. The constitution states that Councilors can be up to certain numbers depending on who they were elected by. The resulting effect is a council that does not have consistent numbers of members and does not need to fill all positions. This is unlike WALGA's governance model where representatives are elected by zones.</p> <p>The Board is responsible for the sound governance of the organisation, whereas the General Council provides input to the organisations policy; provides advice to the Board; acts as a point of interface; elects and appoints Council Elected Directors; and passes resolutions relating to specific handling of assets and raising and borrowing funds.</p>	<p>The Board comprises of 9 – 12 members.</p> <p>The General Council consists of up to 28 Councilors.</p> <p>The Board focuses on strategic priorities, financial performance and compliance issues.</p> <p>The General Council focuses on developing and being spokespersons on public policy frameworks and positions.</p> <p>The governance structure is supported by bespoke working groups, formed from Councilors as relevant for specific strategic and policy issues.</p>
Outcomes of Organisation Discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Review: CCIWA conducted a review of their 2018 Constitution, resulting in changes contained in the 2021 Constitution, including: The governance model was revised to increase the decision-making capability of the board; The structure of the General Council was determined to be too generic causing low Councilor attendance. After the review, Councilors were split into bespoke working groups for specific policy issues for the upcoming 12-month period. This resulted in higher councilor attendance, than the previous governance model. • Representation: In the new revision of the constitution, two new types of Councilors were included to increase representation for their respective groups. Future Leader Councilors, from members of University business schools; and First Nations Business Councilors, elected from First Nations Members. • Feedback on the current model: In the current governance model, when a board member leaves, a temporary team member is appointed since board members can only be elected in general meetings. 	

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Organisational Analysis: The Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME) WA

CME WA is the peak resources sector representative body in Western Australia whose member companies generate 95% of all mineral and energy production and employ 80% of the sector's workforce in the State.

Organisational Information	Governance Structure
<p>The Corporate Governance Charter (Charter) provides guidance on the respective roles, responsibilities and authorities of members of the Executive Council (Executive Councilors) and members of the Advisory Board (Advisory Board Members) in setting the direction, management and control.</p> <p>The number of Vice Presidents is determined by the Executive Council, the constitution contains no limit on the number of Vice Presidents and so the number of Vice Presidents is excluded from the diagram to the right.</p> <p>Executive Councilors are elected by Ordinary Members, and there can be no less than 10.</p> <p>The Role of the Advisory Board is to act as a traditional board providing strategic oversight on behalf of the Chamber. Key interface with the Executive Management Team on organisational matters, including strategy, operating accounts, governance and risk.</p>	<p>Advisory Board comprises of 5-10 members.</p> <p>Executive Council (10+ members).</p> <p>The Advisory Board provides strategic oversight and acts as the key interface with the Executive Management team on strategy, operating accounts, governance and risk.</p> <p>The Executive Council most senior interface to guide and prioritise the agenda of the Chamber and its respective committees and holds final decision-making authority re: annual financial reports/statements.</p> <p>The governance structure is supported by committees including bespoke working groups, appointed by Executive Council as relevant for specific strategic and policy issues.</p>
Outcomes of Organisation Discussion	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance Review: CME recently engaged in a governance review. In April 2020, CME put in place a governance charter. This codified processes and structures, clarified lines of accountability and included a director's code of conduct. • Representation: Members who express an interest, get a seat at the table for the Executive Council. There are approximately 60 ordinary members with 16-20 regularly attending council meetings. This group is intended to provide a litmus check that the broader membership needs are being met. • Engagement: Although the board is strongly engaged in the work and responsibilities it holds, there is the varying engagement of the executive council – this is broadly because due to the large array of issues it covers – the organisation would love to see stronger engagement in this area. • Feedback on the current model: Based on the age of the organisation, the current pyramid structure works. This is successful largely due to the governance charter which provides clarity in role and structure for the organisation. 	

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Organisational Analysis: Australian Hotels Association (WA)

The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) represents more than 5,000 members across Australia serviced by a network of branches based in every state and territory, plus a Canberra-based National Office. Total revenue and other income for AMA nationally in 2020 was reported as \$2,257,963.

Organisational Information	Governance Structure*
<p>AHA was founded in 1892 and now represents more than 80% of the Western Australian hotel and hospitality industry.</p> <p>The organisation has a branch in each state and territory, including a division in each branch known as the National Accommodation Hotels Division. The organisation and each of its branches have their own set of rules by which they are governed. However, ultimate authority is deferred to the National Board of the organisation.</p> <p>All issues and opportunities are addressed by The Branch Committee of Management (The Branch). Consisting of six ordinary members, elected by members of the branch, and the president from each of the Territorial and Non-Territorial Divisions of the Branch. This includes a President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, Treasurer, Accommodation President and Country Representative. The President, Senior Vice President (SVP) and Vice President (VP) are elected by The Branch.</p> <p>AHA developed a subsidiary known as Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA). TAA publicly represents and lobbies specifically for accommodation hotels separately from the AHA's general hospitality members. However, membership to both AHA and TAA is granted to accommodation properties. There are 11 Divisional Presidents – 7 represent different Areas/Regions and 4 represent different membership groups.</p>	<p>Branch Committee of Management has 6 Ordinary members & the president of each Territory/Non-Territory Division (11). Focuses on staff remuneration/conditions, branch transactions, disbursements, funds and resolves delegated Commonwealth industrial disputes.</p> <p>There is no council or other governing entity to provide support to the Branch Committee of Management.</p>
Relevance to WALGA BPGR	
<p>AHA was contacted to schedule an interview; however, there was no response following multiple requests. The following insights have been made by research on their publicly available governance information and documentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composition: Similar to WALGA's State Council, the AHA Governance structure only has one governing entity, The Branch Committee of Management. The number of branch members (17) is smaller than WALGA (25). Responsibilities: The AHA Branch Committee of Management is responsible for financial activities; however, the Rules document does not mention that they are responsible for activities that other comparator organisations governing entities are, such as policy creation or ensuring compliance. Lack of compliance with constitution: The Rules of the AHA WA Branch document acts as the Association's constitution. However, there are many conflicts between the governance structure in the Branch Rules document, and the governance structure depicted on AHA WA's website. For example, in the document the supreme governing body of the Branch is the Branch Committee of Management, whereas on the website it is the Executive Management team. Additionally, there is no mention of a board in the Rules document, but there is a Board of Management on the website. <p><small>*The governance structure has been taken from the Rules of the AHA WA Branch document instead of the current governance structure depicted on the website, due to conflicting information.</small></p>	

Organisational Analysis: Pharmacy Guild (WA Branch Focus)

Pharmacy Guild supports over 5,800 pharmacies across Australia. It is broken up into Territory Branches with more than 600 pharmacies as members in WA (est. 2017).

Organisational Information	Governance Structure*
<p>The Pharmacy Guild's WA Branch's Annual Report can only be viewed by Members of the Organisation.</p> <p>The Branch consists of the Branch Executive, and the Branch Committee. Where the Branch Executive consists of the Branch President, Branch Vice President(s) and the National Councilor(s). Additionally, in the Branch Executive, the position of Branch President and Vice President can also be held by a National Councilor, resulting in different numbers of Branch Executives between states.</p> <p>The National council has the power to determine and direct policy, settle disputes, control the national fund, appoint an auditor and other activities relating to being the supreme governing entity.</p> <p>The constitution does not specify who exactly elects the Branch President, or the Branch Vice Presidents, only that they are elected from the Branch. Whereas Branch Committee Members are elected by financial members in that region.</p> <p>The Branch and the National Council shall appoint their own auditor. Resulting in potential conflicts of interest, as hypothetically the Branch and the National Council can appoint an auditor who audits in their favour.</p>	<p>Branch Executive consists of 2 – 6 Executive Members. All powers and functions of the Branch Committee between meetings of the Branch Committee.</p> <p>Branch Committee consists of 7 – 14 committee members (excluding the Branch executive). Control the Branch fund, decide the agenda for and attend special meetings.</p> <p>There is only one governing entity in WA for Pharmacy Guild, however the WA Branch consists of National Councilors, from the National Council which is the supreme governing body for the Pharmacy Guild. However, the Branch Committee can create subcommittees to carry out particular functions.</p>
Relevance to WALGA BPGR	
<p>Pharmacy Guild WA was contacted to schedule an interview; however, they responded that they do not have time to discuss their governance model. The following insights have been made by research on their publicly available governance information and documentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representation: The interests of members are represented by the Branch Committee Members who are elected by the financial members of the same regions. Additionally, the interests of the National Council are represented in Branches by the National Councilors appointed in each Branch. Composition: The governance structure of the Branches of the Pharmacy Guild is adaptable to the needs of the Branch. Since the Branch Committee members can decide the number of Committee members needed in their branch, they can do so based on the needs of the Branch at any point in time, making the composition and size of the Branch adaptable to emerging needs. Also, the creation of additional branches and amalgamations of current branches is up to the decision of the National Council, enabling the National Council to alter the composition of the governance model nation-wide as needed. Branches can also create subcommittees as needed. <p><small>*Since the number of members in governance entities is mentioned in the Constitution, the numbers have been estimated based on the current membership as per the Guild's website.</small></p>	



Best Practice Governance Review

4. Governance Principles

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Development of Governance Principles

BPGR Steering Committee (SC) meetings and how they lead to the development of the proposed governance principles.

BPGR Steering Committee meetings	Key outcomes
<p>The BPGR Steering Committee (SC) was established by State Council to guide the review. SC Meetings 2 through to 5 acted as key inputs into the development of the Governance Model principles. The focus of SC Meetings two through to five led to the development of the governance principles.</p> <p>SC Meeting 2 - On 8 June 2022, the initial draft of the comparator organisations and their governance structures was presented. The SC identified four assessment criteria for the purposes of assessing potential governance models. The assessment criteria were: (1) representation, (2) efficiency, (3) contemporary, and (4) sustainable. An Options Paper was then developed, using the assessment criteria against two governance model options.</p> <p>SC Meeting 3 - On 28 June 2022, a discussion of the DRAFT Options Paper took place. The SC decided that a workshop was required to take a step back and develop the core governance principles (rather than assessment criteria) that needed to underpin any future governance model for WALGA.</p> <p>SC Meeting 4 - On 18 July 2022, the SC discussed the principles and identified four principles that should guide WALGA's governance. They were Representative, Responsive, Results Oriented and Renewal. Renewal was the principle that some SC members deemed as optional and is not included as a separate principle. Some elements of renewal are incorporated into the other three principles.</p> <p>SC Meeting 5 - On 10 August 2022, the SC discussed and finalised the proposed principles. Discussion focused on the principle components and their likely governance implications. Several activities also occurred around this SC meeting. This include an update to State Council at the Information Forum on 3 August 2022, finalisation of principles on 17 August 2022 to inform AGM Item and finalisation of Agenda Item for 2022 AGM, including approval by State Council.</p>	<p>The SC agreed on the proposed governance model principles, their component parts and the implications of these principles. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle definition – the definition of each of the three principles. • Principle component – the key component parts of each principle. • Principle component description – a description of each principle component. • Governance implications – the governance implications of each of the principle components. <p>The following slide presents the principles, their components and a description and their governance implications.</p>

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Endorsed Governance Principles

The principles for assessing WALGA's governance model options and governance implications

	Principle	Principle component	Component description	Governance implications
Representative	WALGA unites and represents the entire local government sector in WA and understands the diverse nature and needs of members, regional communities and economies.	Composition	The composition of WALGA's governance model represents Local Government members from metropolitan and country councils.	The governing body will maintain equal country and metropolitan local government representation.
		Size	An appropriate number of members/representatives oversees WALGA's governance.	Potential reduction in the size of the overarching governing body.
		Diversity	WALGA's governance reflects the diversity and experience of its Local Government members.	Potential for the introduction of a mechanism to ensure the governance model comprises an appropriate diversity of skills and experience.
		Election Process	Considers the processes by which WALGA's governance positions are elected and appointed.	Consideration of alternative election and appointment arrangements, with the President to be elected by and from the governing body.
Responsive	WALGA is an agile association which acts quickly to respond to the needs of Local Government members and stakeholders.	Timely Decision Making	WALGA's governance supports timely decision making.	WALGA's governance model facilitates responsive decision making.
		Engaged Decision Making	WALGA's Local Government members are engaged in decision making processes.	WALGA's governance model facilitates clear and accessible processes for Local Government members to influence policy and advocacy with consideration to alternatives to the existing zone structure.
Results Oriented	WALGA dedicates resources and efforts to secure the best outcomes for Local Government members and supports the delivery of high-quality projects, programs and services.	Agility	Considers the flexibility of WALGA's governance to adapt to changing circumstances.	WALGA's governance model is agile and future proofed for external changes.
		Focus	Considers the clarity and separation of responsibilities and accountabilities of WALGA's governance.	Governance bodies have clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities, with the capacity to prioritise and focus on strategic issues.
		Value Added Decision Making	Facilitates opportunities for value to be added to decision making.	Adoption of best practice board processes, and introduction of governance structures that are empowered to inform decisions.
		Continuous Improvement	Considers regular review processes for components of the governance model, their purpose and achieved outcomes.	WALGA's governance is regularly reviewed every 3 to 5 years to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for Local Government members.

Thank you

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Appendix 2 – Consultation Paper



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The WALGA logo is located in the bottom left corner of the slide. A small number "2" is in the bottom right corner.





Best Practice Governance Review

1. Introduction

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Introduction

Background	This document
<p>The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) developed its Corporate Strategy 2020-25, and in doing so identified a key strategic priority, to undertake a Best Practice Governance Review. The objective of the review is to ensure WALGA's governance and engagement models are contemporary, agile, and maximise engagement with members.</p> <p>Other drivers for the review included: misalignment between key governance documents; constitution amendments for State Councillors' Candidature for State and Federal elections; and legislative reforms for the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, and for the <i>Industrial Relations Act 1979</i>.</p> <p>In March 2022, State Council commissioned the Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR) and established a Steering Committee to guide the Review.</p> <p>The BPGR Steering Committee had five meetings between 5 May 2022 and 10 August 2022. There was wide-ranging discussion on WALGA's current governance model, the need to engage broadly with the membership, and opportunities for change. Key outputs from the BPGR Steering Committee meetings included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on five comparator organisations – Australian Medical Association (AMA) WA, Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) WA, Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME), Australian Hotels Association (AHA) WA and the Pharmacy Guild (PG). • Review of governance models of Local Government Associations in other Australian States and Territories, and New Zealand. • Drafting of governance principles that will underpin future governance models. • Finalisation of governance principles and principle components across the domains of: Representative, Responsive and Results Oriented. <p>These activities are outlined in more detail in the Background Paper.</p>	<p>This document outlines:</p> <p>Principles: The governance model principles and principle components across the domains of: Representative, Responsive and Results Oriented. The principles were endorsed at the WALGA AGM on 3 October 2022.</p> <p>Governance model options: Presents four potential governance model options and the structure and roles associated with each option. The four options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Two tier model, existing zones • Option 2: Board, regional bodies • Option 3: Board, amalgamated zones • Option 4: Member elected board, regional groups • Option 5: Current model <p>Alignment to principles: Each of these options are then assessed as to whether they align with the principles and their components. The assessment considers the option and whether it meets, partially meets or does not meet the principle component. Alongside this assessment are some discussion points. An example of this relates to diversity.</p> <p>Diversity is a component of the governance model being representative. Diversity here may include consideration of whether the governance model comprises an appropriate diversity of skills and experience. It also provides opportunity to consider whether the governance model provides opportunity for members of diverse backgrounds e.g. people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent, people with Cultural and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>Within all the model options, direct relationship with WALGA and regional / subregional collaboration would continue to be encouraged.</p>



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Best Practice Governance Review

2. Governance Principles

Governance Principles			
The following Governance Principles were endorsed by members at the 2022 AGM			
Principle	Principle component	Component description	Governance implications
Representative	Composition	The composition of WALGA's governance model represents Local Government members from metropolitan and country councils.	The governing body will maintain equal country and metropolitan local government representation.
	Size	An appropriate number of members/representatives oversees WALGA's governance.	Potential reduction in the size of the overarching governing body.
	Diversity	WALGA's governance reflects the diversity and experience of its Local Government members.	Potential for the introduction of a mechanism to ensure the governance model comprises an appropriate diversity of skills and experience.
	Election Process	Considers the processes by which WALGA's governance positions are elected and appointed.	Consideration of alternative election and appointment arrangements, with the President to be elected by and from the governing body.
Responsive	Timely Decision Making	WALGA's governance supports timely decision making.	WALGA's governance model facilitates responsive decision making.
	Engaged Decision Making	WALGA's Local Government members are engaged in decision making processes.	WALGA's governance model facilitates clear and accessible processes for Local Government members to influence policy and advocacy with consideration to alternatives to the existing zone structure.
	Agility	Considers the flexibility of WALGA's governance to adapt to changing circumstances.	WALGA's governance model is agile and future proofed for external changes.
Results Oriented	Focus	Considers the clarity and separation of responsibilities and accountabilities of WALGA's governance.	Governance bodies have clearly defined responsibilities and accountabilities, with the capacity to prioritise and focus on strategic issues.
	Value Added Decision Making	Facilitates opportunities for value to be added to decision making.	Adoption of best practice board processes, and introduction of governance structures that are empowered to inform decisions.
	Continuous Improvement	Considers regular review processes for components of the governance model, their purpose and achieved outcomes.	WALGA's governance is regularly reviewed every 3 to 5 years to ensure the best outcomes are achieved for Local Government members.



Best Practice Governance Review

3. Options and Current Model

Options and Current Model

Five options, including the Current Model, with details of each of their key governance bodies

Option 1 – Two tier model, existing Zones	Option 2 – Board, Regional Bodies	Option 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones	Option 4 – Member elected Board, Regional Groups	Option 5 – Current Model
<p>Board (11 members) 8 elected from Policy Council, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p>	<p>Board (11 members) 8 elected from Regional Bodies, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p>	<p>Board (15 members) 12 elected from Zones, incl. Board elected President Up to 2 independents</p>	<p>Board (11 members) 8 elected via direct election, incl. Board elected President Up to 3 independents</p>	<p>Slate Council (25 members) 24 State Councillors 1 President</p>
<p>Policy Council (25 members) 24 members plus President</p>	<p>Regional Bodies (4 metro, 4 country)</p>	<p>Zones (6 metro, 6 country)</p>	<p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p>	<p>Zones (5 metro, 12 country)</p>
<p>Zones (5 metro, 12 country)</p>	<p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p>	<p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p>	<p>Regional Groups</p>	<p>Policy Teams / Forums / Committees</p>



Option 1 – Two Tier Model, Existing Zones

A description of the governance body structure and role for Option 1

Governance Body	Structure	Role
Board	11 members: 8 representative members elected from and by the Policy Council (4 Metro, 4 Country). The Board then elect the President from the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors.	Meet 6 times per year. Responsible for governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.
Policy Council	24 members plus President. Members elected by and from the Zones (12 from 5 Metro Zones, 12 from 12 Country Zones).	Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy positions and advocacy for input into Board, and to liaise with Zones on policy and advocacy. The Policy Council can form Policy Teams, Policy Forums and Committees, which would have responsibility for specific functions, such as policy development.
Zones	5 Metro, 12 Country.	Meet at least 2 times per year to raise policy issues, elect representatives to the Policy Council, and undertake regional advocacy and projects as directed by the Zone.

WALGA

Option 2 – Board, Regional Bodies

A description of the governance body structure and role for Option 2




Governance Body	Structure	Role
Board	11 members: 8 representative members elected from and by the Regional Bodies (4 Metro, 4 Country). The Board then elect the President from the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors.	Meet 6 times per year responsible for governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.
Regional Bodies	Metro: North, South, East and Central. Country: Mining & Pastoral, Agricultural, Peel/South West/Great Southern, Regional Capitals. <i>Note: Local Governments can nominate their preferred regional body, with membership of the regional bodies to be determined by the board.</i>	Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy development and advocacy, and to elect Board members (1 from each of the Metro Regional Bodies and 1 from each of the Country Regional Bodies).
Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Membership drawn from the Board and Regional Bodies with some independent members.	Responsible for specific functions – such as policy development – as determined by the Board.

WALGA



Option 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones




A description of the governance body structure and role for Option 3

Governance Body	Structure	Role
 Board	15 members: 12 elected from the Zones (6 from Metro/Peel, 6 from Country). President to be elected by the Board. The Board will appoint up to 2 independent, skills or constituency directors.	Meet 6 times per year. Responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.
 Zones	Metro/Peel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Metropolitan East Metropolitan North Metropolitan South Metropolitan South East Metropolitan Peel Country*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt South Wheatbelt North Mid West / Murchison / Gascoyne Pilbara / Kimberley South West / Great Southern Goldfields / Esperance *indicative, re-drawing required	Meet at least 2 times per year to contribute to policy development and advocacy, and to elect Board members.
 Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Membership drawn from Board with some independent members.	Responsible for specific functions – such as policy development – as determined by the Board.

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Option 4 – Member Elected Board, Regional Groups

A description of the governance body structure and role for Option 4




Governance Body	Structure	Role
 Board	11 members: 8 representative members elected via direct election, with each member Local Government to vote (4 elected by and from Metropolitan Local Governments, 4 elected by and from Country Local Governments). President elected by the Board from among the representative members. The Board will appoint up to 3 independent, skills or constituency directors.	Meet 6 times per year and responsible for governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy priorities, employment of CEO, etc.
 Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Membership drawn from Board with some independent members.	Meet at least 2 times per year. Responsible for specific functions – such as contributing to policy development – as determined by the Board.
 Regional Groups	Determined by members to suit needs. E.g. Regional Capitals, GAPP, VROCs, CEO Group, existing Zones.	Feed into policy development processes and undertake advocacy and projects as determined by the groups.

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Option 5 – Current Model

A description of the governance body structure and roles for the Current Model

Governance Body	Structure	Role
 State Council	24 members plus the President. Members elected by and from the Zones (12 from 5 Metropolitan Zones, 12 from 12 Country Zones).	Responsible for the governance of WALGA including strategy, financial oversight, policy development and endorsement, advocacy, employment of CEO, etc.
 Zones	5 Metro, 12 Country.	Consider the State Council Agenda, elect State Councillors, and undertake regional advocacy / projects as directed by the Zone.
 Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Membership drawn from State Council with some independent members.	Responsible for specific functions – such as contributing to policy development, financial oversight etc. – as determined by State Council.

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Best Practice Governance Review

4. Alignment to Principles

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Option 1 – Two Tier Model, Existing Zones

Option 1 and its alignment to the principles

Option 1 – Two tier model, existing Zones

Board (11 members)
8 elected from Policy Council, incl. Board elected President
Up to 3 independents

Policy Council (25 members)
24 members plus President

Zones (5 metro, 12 country)

	Principle & component	Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points
Representative	Composition	Meets	• Board will have equal metropolitan and country membership
	Size	Meets	• Board is smaller
	Diversity	Meets	• Consideration of appointment processes for independent members
	Election Process	Meets	• Board to be elected from Policy Council
Responsive	Timely Decision Making	Meets	• Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	• Board meetings are not dependent on other governing body meetings
	Agility	Partial	• Board is future-proofed from external changes • Zone structures still underpin Council
Results Oriented	Focus	Partial	• Prioritisation and focus may be a challenge
	Value Added Decision Making	Meets	• Best practice board approaches will be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	• Board would be responsible for ongoing reviews of governance body roles in consultation with members

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Option 2 – Board, Regional Bodies

Option 2 and its alignment to the principles

Option 2 – Board, Regional Bodies

Board (11 members)
8 elected from Regional Bodies, incl. Board elected President
Up to 3 independents

Regional Bodies (4 metro, 4 country)

Policy Teams / Forums / Committees

	Principle & component	Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points
Representative	Composition	Meets	• Board will have equal metropolitan and country membership • How to establish regional body membership is a consideration
	Size	Partial	• Board is smaller • Number of regional bodies is a consideration
	Diversity	Meets	• Consideration of appointment processes for independent members
	Election Process	Meets	• Board election from regional bodies
Responsive	Timely Decision Making	Meets	• Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	• Board meetings are not dependent on regional body meetings
	Agility	Meets	• Board and regional bodies are future proofed from external changes
Results Oriented	Focus	Partial	• There may be challenges defining accountabilities and responsibilities of regional bodies
	Value Added Decision Making	Meets	• Best practice board approaches will be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	• Board will be responsible for ongoing reviews of governing body roles in consultation with members

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Option 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones

Option 3 and its alignment to the principles

Option 3 – Board, Amalgamated Zones

Board (15 members)
12 elected from Zones, incl. Board elected President
Up to 2 independents

Zones (6 metro, 6 country)

Policy Teams / Forums / Committees

Principle & component	Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points	
Representative	Composition	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board will have equal metropolitan and country membership There may be composition challenges for amalgamated zones
	Size	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is smaller Amalgamation of zones to 12 in total
	Diversity	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of appointment processes for independent members
	Election Process	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board election from zones
Responsive	Timely Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meetings are aligned to zone meetings
	Agility	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is future proofed from external changes
Results Oriented	Focus	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation and focus may be a challenge
	Value Added Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice board approaches will be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board would be responsible for ongoing reviews of governance body roles in consultation with members

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Option 4 – Member Elected Board, Regional Groups

Option 4 and its alignment to the principles

Option 4 – Member elected Board, Regional Groups

Board (11 members)
8 elected via direct election, incl. Board elected President
Up to 3 independents

Policy Teams / Forums / Committees

Regional Groups

Principle & component	Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points	
Representative	Composition	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board will have equal metropolitan and country membership Membership of regional groups dynamic and ad hoc
	Size	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is smaller
	Diversity	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of appointment processes for independent members
	Election Process	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board election from a general meeting
Responsive	Timely Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
	Engaged Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meetings are not dependent on policy teams / regional group meetings
	Agility	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board is future-proofed from external changes
Results Oriented	Focus	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy teams / Regional Group meetings to influence priorities
	Value Added Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice board approaches will be adopted
	Continuous Improvement	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board would be responsible for ongoing reviews of governing body roles in consultation with members

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Option 5 – Current Model

Current model and its alignment to the principles

Option 5 – Current Model	Principle & component	Principle alignment (Meets, partial, does not meet)	Discussion points	
State Council (25 members) 24 State Councilors 1 President Zones (5 metro, 12 country) Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Representative	Composition	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council has equal metropolitan and country membership
		Size	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council will retain 25 members
		Diversity	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No control of diversity of State Council
		Election Process	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council election from zones
	Responsive	Timely Decision Making	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting frequency aligned to governing body roles
		Engaged Decision Making	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council meetings are aligned to zone meetings
		Agility	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council is not future proofed from external changes
	Results Oriented	Focus	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation and focus may remain a challenge
		Value Added Decision Making	Partial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice board approaches will not be adopted
		Continuous Improvement	Meets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Council would continue to be responsible for ongoing reviews of governance body roles in consultation with members

WALGA

Best Practice Governance Review

5. Consultation Process and Next Steps


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WALGA Best Practice Governance Review

Consultation Process and Next Steps

Consultation Process	Next Steps
<p>Council Position</p> <p>Member Local Governments are asked to consider this paper and the governance model options put forward and provide a Council endorsed position to WALGA.</p> <p>It is suggested that Councils endorse a preferred model (which could be the Current Model) and provide a ranking in terms of an order of preference.</p> <p>Submissions to WALGA are sought by 23 December 2022.</p> <p>Supplementary Market Research</p> <p>An independent market research company has been engaged to ascertain insights from Elected Members and Chief Executive Officers about WALGA's governance model. Qualitative interviews and a quantitative survey will be undertaken to supplement Council positions.</p> <p>Workshops and Forums</p> <p>Requests for presentations on the work undertaken by the Steering Committee and the model options, as well as facilitation of workshops and discussions will be accommodated where practicable.</p>	<p>Timetable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation and engagement with Members on this paper and governance model options will be undertaken from October 2022 until 23 December 2022.• The Steering Committee will consider the outcomes of the consultation process during January 2023.• A Final Report with a recommended direction will be the subject of a State Council Agenda item for the March 2023 State Council meeting.




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Thank you

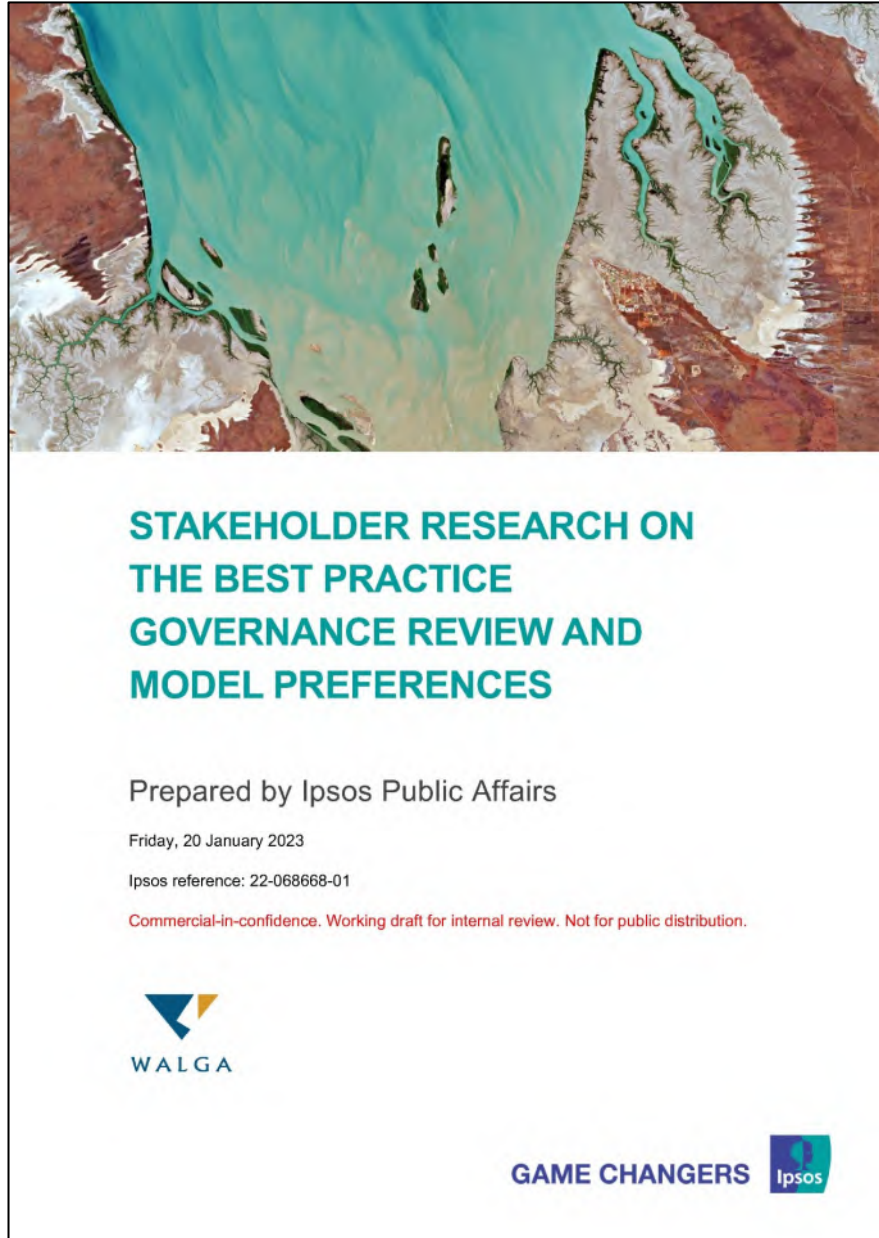
For more information, visit our [website](#) or contact Tim Lane, Manager Association and Corporate Governance, at tlane@walga.asn.au or 9213 2029.



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Appendix 3 – Stakeholder Research on the Best Practice Governance Review and Model Preferences, Prepared by Ipsos Public Affairs





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GAME CHANGERS 



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Executive Summary

As part of WALGA's Best Practice Governance Review (BGPR), Ipsos was engaged to conduct a research study with Elected Members and CEOs. The study aimed to:

- Educate and collect feedback from stakeholders (Elected Members and CEOs) on the rationale for a revised governance model,
- Establish a perception benchmark of the WALGA Governance Review, and
- Collect comprehensive feedback on the proposed governance models and determine model preference.

More than 120 stakeholders provided feedback on the review, WALGA's current governance model, and proposed alternative models with 109 responding to the survey and 11 participating in qualitative interviews in November and December 2022.

The Desire to Change

Most stakeholders (76%) know at least a moderate amount about WALGA's current governance model, and **the majority (85%) claimed to know a 'little' or 'a lot' about the BPGR**. There is a consensus that the BPGR is a good thing for the entire Local Government Sector, with **around two in three stakeholders agreeing that the review is needed**. The survey indicated that **a majority (58%) feel a change to WALGA's current governance model is needed**.

Perceptions of the Best Practice Governance Review

While there is support for the review, **there are concerns about how the review is being carried out**. These concerns include fairness to metropolitan and country Local Governments, trust, and transparency about the process, and how decisions are made. Some of those we interviewed stated that if a new model is introduced, there needs to be a careful change management process.

Communications

Overall, those we interviewed felt that **communication from WALGA has been even-handed and neutral**, with WALGA being seen by stakeholders as quite impartial and level about the process. However, in the survey **less than half of stakeholders rated WALGA's communication about the BPGR as: trustworthy, relevant, transparent, informative**. Just 30% rated WALGA's communications as 'easy to understand'. WALGA should address three themes when building and communicating an alternative governance model: metropolitan and regional composition, engaged decision making, and diversity.



The Current Governance Model

Opinions on how well WALGA's current governance model works are polarised, and a majority want to see change. Overall, Stakeholders we spoke with felt that the current model does work, but there are improvements to be made, especially in terms of agility.

The majority we interviewed agreed that **under the status quo, efficiency and effectiveness will remain below optimal**. With this said, a sizeable minority (40%) do not agree that a change to WALGA's governance model is needed, and a number of those we spoke to felt some minor adjustments to the current model could suffice.

Model Preferences

We presented all models in the survey and asked stakeholders to rank each option in order of their most preferred (1) to least preferred (5). Stakeholders then briefly described the main reason they chose their most preferred model over the others.

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Current Model
	Board (11 members) 8 elected from Policy Council, incl. Board elected President. Up to 3 independents.	Board (11 members) 8 elected from Regional Bodies, incl. Board elected President. Up to 3 independents.	Board (15 members) 12 elected from Zones, incl. Board elected President. Up to 2 independents.	Board (11 members) 8 elected via direct election, incl. Board elected President. Up to 3 independents.	State Council (25 members) 24 State Councillors, 1 President.
	Policy Council (25 Members) 24 members (elected from Zones) plus President.	Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Policy Teams / Forums / Committees
	Zones (5 metro, 12 country)	Regional Bodies (4 metro, 4 country)	Zones (6 metro, 6 country)	Regional Groups	Zones (5 metro, 12 country)

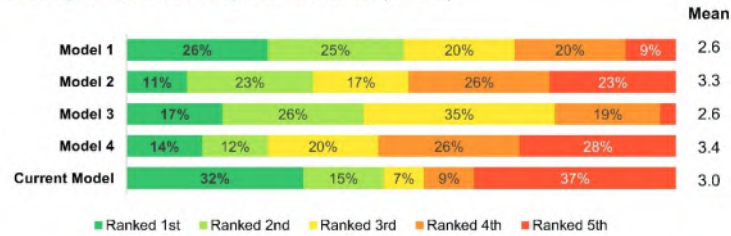
Overall, **Models 1 and 3 found stronger consistent support**, the **current model** was highly **polarising**, and **Models 2 and 4 were less preferred** overall.

Overall Model Rankings

The rankings for each governance model from the survey are shown below. The mean represents the average rank provided for each model, where values closer to one are more preferred, and values closer to five are less preferred.



Rankings for each WALGA governance model (n = 109)



Q32. Here is a summary of all five governance models side by side, including the current model (Option 5). Please rank these options in order of your most preferred (1) to least preferred (5).

The mean rankings for each model suggest that Models 1 and 3 are roughly equal in being most preferred overall, followed by the current model, then models 2 and 4 respectively. Model 1 had a higher combined number of first and second rankings.

Views on the current model were polarised, being ranked both first and last most often. Averaging these views saw the current model positioned in the middle of all models under consideration by WALGA in terms of preferences. There were strong opinions from stakeholders in qualitative feedback both for and against the current model.

Most preferred model

To determine which of the five WALGA governance models presented was most preferred, we used four different methods, presented below. Under most voting methods, Model 1 was the most preferred, although as discussed, Model 3 also performed strongly.

Voting results from ranked preferences for each governance model

Method	How it works	Winner
<i>First-past-the-post</i>	The model with the most first ranks wins.	Current Model 32% first rankings
<i>Instant run-off voting</i>	The model with 50% or more first rankings wins. If no model achieves this, the model with the fewest first rankings is removed and the votes for this model are reallocated to the voters' next most preferred choice. This process is repeated until a winner is found.	Model 1 Favoured over Current Model 63 votes to 46
<i>Borda</i>	The model with the lowest mean score wins. Each model's rankings are treated as scores (e.g., ranking a model first allocates it one point, ranking a model second allocates it two points, etc.).	Model 1 Note: Both this and Model 3 achieved an average rank of 2.6



Method	How it works	Winner
Condorcet / Copeland	The winner from each possible pairing of models is calculated. The model that wins over all the others head-to-head most frequently wins overall.	Model 1

Base: All stakeholders who completed the survey (n=109). Q32. Here is a summary of all five Governance Models side by side, including the current model (Option 5). Please rank these options in order of your most preferred (1) to least preferred (5).

Below, we provide a summary of likes and dislikes for each model, drawn from qualitative interviews and open-ended feedback in the survey.

	Likes	Dislikes
Model 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a smaller board for agility Keeps representation in policy council and zones Adds value to the current model whilst modernising WALGA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be seen as only a minor modification to the current model Too many members on the policy council to be efficient Questions around how board will take on view of the policy council will interact Maintaining the current zone structure could be inefficient
Model 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller board size and composition Appears to be more in line with governance structure in corporations / State Government electoral Zones Retains Policy Teams, Forums and Committees input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional bodies risk reducing overall regional representation Perception that large Regional Bodies proposed are not representative of the diversity of issues faced by remote/regional shire councils
Model 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to the current model but with a reduced size LG representation is inclusive, and the suggested Zone structure is seen as more workable Retains Policy Teams, Forums and Committees input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be seen as only a minor modification to the current model Board arguably remains too large Division of Zones is contentious – some of the indicative groupings may not represent the area effectively as there are competing activities and priorities
Model 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy teams are issued based Responsive and results orientated Regional groups determined by members to suit needs Appears to be more aligned to contemporary corporate governance structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear as to how all regions would be equally represented in the absence of the current Zone structure Regional Group composition may dilute LG voices in favour of special interest groups Concern from country members that their voice may be drowned out by major Regional Groups (e.g., GAPP, Regional Capitals)
Current Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Zones are representative allowing for a diverse range of input from the state State Council representation from Zones allows for the representation of low-population groups Roles within the model are fairly well understood and defined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regions and country areas seen to have a disproportionate influence Some councils are not engaged in the process at the Zone or State Council levels Contribution of Zones varies, but some seen as being slow and adding little value Excessive number of State Councillors slows policy and advocacy and prevents high-level strategic focus Not all issues dealt with represent the Local Government Sector as a whole Some State Councillors too focused on representing their LGA or Zone interests



From Insights to Action

There is a genuine opportunity for WALGA to influence stakeholder attitudes over the remaining nine months of the BPGR. If a change is agreed upon, the high proportion of stakeholders that 'neither agree nor disagree' that change is necessary suggests that WALGA needs to highlight the benefits of change to stakeholders.

Stakeholders need to feel like the BPGR is fair for them and the Local Government they represent. Future engagement by WALGA that better communicates the fairness of the process is needed. This will require listening to individual concerns and addressing them quickly and confidently.

Many stakeholders are resistant to change. They need leadership and certainty from WALGA. To decide whether to adopt an alternative model, stakeholders need the detail of exactly how it will operate, how it will be implemented and how it will provide a better outcome for all stakeholders.

WALGA should review and adapt its communication strategy. Less than half of stakeholders in the survey rated WALGA's communication about the BPGR as: trustworthy, relevant, transparent, informative, and easy to understand. We also saw somewhat low uptake on the survey, despite a number of reminders, suggesting a lack of engagement. Communications strategies need to include clearly defined goals, audiences and their needs, messaging, channels, timing, and ongoing evaluation.

When building and communicating an alternative governance model, be sure to address three themes: metropolitan and country composition, engaged decision making and diversity. Representation in metropolitan and country areas, how stakeholders will be engaged in decision-making, and the diversity and experience of stakeholders are essential themes for WALGA to address in future communications and engagement.

The current governance model is simultaneously the most and least preferred. If the current model remains in place at the end of 2023, close to four in 10 stakeholders will be upset with the decision (based on the last preference vote for the current model). The magnitude of dissatisfaction could harm WALGA's relationship with the Local Government sector overall.

Model 1 and Model 3 are candidates for further development. Both models warrant further development by WALGA based on stakeholder first and overall preference votes. Both models are liked in part for their perceived similarities to the current model. WALGA can potentially leverage this similarity to address the concerns of those who prefer the current model.



There are six other key topics to be addressed through WALGA engagement and communications to break down barriers to adopting a new model:

1. The Board – representation, capability, and continuity
2. Timing of body meetings – what is necessary and expected to remain responsive and agile
3. Size of governance bodies
4. Interactions between Policy Council and Board
5. Composition of Regional Bodies
6. Selection and workings of potential amalgamated Zones.



Background

WALGA advocates and negotiates on behalf of all 139 Local Government members and leverages the collective strength and influence of the sector for the benefit of Local Governments and their communities. The Association also provides professional advice and offers services that provide-benefits to Local Governments. WALGA is therefore an essential voice for more than 1,200 Elected Members, around 23,000 Local Government employees and the 2.6 million constituents they serve and represent.

WALGA's Best Practice Governance Review

WALGA's Corporate Strategy 2020-2025 identifies the governance model as a key enabler of performance, with the following description: *We have contemporary governance and engagement models.*

Member and stakeholder feedback from a range of sources over several years has highlighted dissatisfaction with the model, spurring State Council to commission a Best Practice Governance Review (BPGR). The review began in March 2022 and represents an opportunity for WALGA and Local Government to review and reshape the current governance model to:

- Deliver strong, clear, focused, and consistent policy positions on strategic matters of the most importance to Local Governments in WA,
- Drive advocacy outcomes and impact on behalf of Local Government in WA, and the communities they serve, and
- Embed agility and responsiveness, ensuring member concerns are heard, respected, and represented in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

The new governance model requires endorsement by 75% of members voting at an Annual General Meeting. To support a governance model widely accepted by those Local Governments and the decision-makers within them (Elected Members and CEOs), WALGA engaged Ipsos to:

- Educate and collect feedback from members on the rationale for a revised governance model,
- Establish a perception benchmark of the WALGA Governance Review, and
- Collect comprehensive feedback on the proposed governance models and determine model preference.



Objectives and Methodology

Project Objectives

Ipsos's objectives were to:

1. Evaluate the perceptions and understanding of WALGA's governance model
2. Gauge awareness and sentiment towards the Best Practice Governance Review
3. Solicit feedback on proposed alternative governance models and identify challenges and opportunities presented by each
4. Determine preferences for potential changes to the existing governance model
5. Make recommendations on how WALGA can approach any future changes to the governance model.

Methodology

We took a combined qualitative and quantitative data collection approach to stakeholder consultation, including WALGA staff interviews, an online survey, and qualitative interviews with stakeholders. This mixed approach allowed us to quantitatively evaluate the perceptions of a broad number of stakeholders across Local Governments, while collecting detailed and illustrative feedback from the qualitative interviews. Quotations we use throughout the report illustrate our findings and are taken from qualitative interviews with stakeholders and open-ended responses from the survey.

Stage 1. In-depth interviews

Interviews with WALGA staff

Ipsos conducted 8 interviews with WALGA staff. The purpose of the WALGA staff interviews was to collect information to assist with the design and interpretation of the Stage 2 Stakeholder Research. These interviews were scheduled for 30 minutes and covered the following topics:

1. Perceptions of the Best Practice Governance Review – internal communication, staff interest, stakeholder communication, purpose, and benefits of the Review
2. Current and alternative governance models – hypotheses on stakeholder preferences and reasons for preference, perceptions on how WALGA will need to change if a new model is chosen.

A list of interviewees is presented in the Appendix.



Stage 2a. Stakeholder interviews and Surveys

Interviews with CEOs and Elected Members

Ipsos conducted 12 interviews with CEOs and Elected Members. Stakeholders were chosen to ensure a split of Elected Members and CEOs from across the state, considering a diversity of metropolitan and country locations.

WALGA contacted 18 stakeholders to be interviewed and sent out follow-up emails to those who had not responded with their availability. Ipsos then carried out the remainder of the follow-up with phone calls. Out of those who were initially asked, **11 were available** to be interviewed by Ipsos. **WALGA nominated an additional three stakeholders** as replacements for those who were unavailable or declined to interview. Of these additional stakeholders directly contacted by Ipsos, only **one was available to be interviewed.**

The interviews were scheduled for 45 minutes and covered the following topics:

1. Knowledge of WALGA's current governance model
2. Perceptions of the Best Practice Governance Review
3. Alternative governance models
4. How a new model will be perceived by Local Government

A list of interviewees is presented in the Appendix.

Stage 2b. Quantitative surveys with Stakeholders

In collaboration with WALGA, Ipsos designed a survey to capture data against the project objectives. The survey was sent by WALGA to 139 CEOs and 1199 Elected Members. Details on the fieldwork are presented below in Table 1.

Table 1. Survey fieldwork details

Fieldwork	Contact List	Completed Surveys	Response Rate
14/11/22 – 14/12/22	1,338	109	8%

Two forms of the survey were distributed during the fieldwork period. A long-form survey asking for detailed feedback on each model was initially distributed to all contacts. After a lower-than-anticipated response rate from the contact list on the long-form version of the survey (n = 54 completes), a shorter version of the survey was distributed later in fieldwork (n = 55 completes).

A total of five emails were sent to stakeholders by WALGA, the first being an invitation to complete the survey sent to Elected Members and CEOs. **WALGA then**



sent two reminder emails to Elected Members and CEOs who had not opened the survey. The other two emails sent were reminder emails to Elected Members and CEOs who had started but had not completed the survey.

Presented below in Table 2 is the distribution of completed surveys metropolitan/country, Local Government role, and State Councillor status. A comprehensive breakdown of survey completes by zone is shown in Table 3.

Table 2. Survey completes by region and member type

	Number of Completed Surveys (n)	% Completed Surveys
Total	109	100%
Country WA	76	70%
Metropolitan	31	28%
Did not specify	2	2%
Elected Member / Mayor / President	75	69%
CEO	31	28%
Other / Did not specify	3	3%
State Councillor	13	12%
Non-State Councillor	94	86%
Other / Did not specify	2	2%

Table 3. Survey completes by zone

	Number of Completed Surveys (n)	% Completed Surveys
Total	109	100%
Avon-Midland Country Zone	15%	16
Central Country Zone	11%	12
Gascoyne Country Zone	1%	1
Goldfields-Esperance Country Zone	3%	3
Great Eastern Country Zone	13%	14
Great Southern Country Zone	6%	7
Kimberley Country Zone	1%	1
Murchison Country Zone	3%	3
Northern Country Zone	6%	6
Peel Country Zone	2%	2
Pilbara Country Zone	2%	2
South West Country Zone	8%	9
Central Metropolitan Zone	6%	7
East Metropolitan Zone	8%	9
North Metropolitan Zone	4%	4
South East Metropolitan Zone	6%	6
South Metropolitan Zone	5%	5
Prefer not to say / Don't know	2%	2



Perceptions of the BPGR

Understanding of WALGA Governance

Most stakeholders (76%) who completed the survey agree they know 'a moderate amount' or 'a lot' about WALGA's current governance model. The stakeholders we spoke with in interviews tended to be highly familiar with WALGA's governance structure but noted that some of their peers may not have quite as strong an understanding.

Table 4. Knowledge of WALGA's current governance model

	Total n=59	Region		Role		State Councillor	
		Country n=43	Metro n=15	EM / Mayor / Pres. n=40	CEO n=19	Yes n=11	No n=48
I don't know anything at all	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
I know a little	24%	23%	27%	30%	11%	9%	27%
I know a moderate amount	49%	53%	40%	45%	58%	55%	48%
I know a lot	27%	23%	33%	25%	32%	36%	25%
Total knowing a moderate amount / a lot	76%	77%	73%	68%	89%	91%	73%

Base: All stakeholders who completed long survey (n=59). Q4. How would you rate your knowledge of WALGA's governance model?

Interviews with Councillors showed **higher levels of understanding** amongst Councillors who had **long-standing roles within the Local Government sector**. Those that had positions within a WALGA governance body (e.g., State Council, Zones, Policy Teams, etc) were well versed in the role WALGA plays within the sector, its purpose and how it operates.

On the other hand, stakeholders that were new to their position or new to the Local Government sector had a limited understanding of governance within WALGA in comparison to their colleagues. There were also some longstanding Local Government stakeholders who were less knowledgeable due to their disengagement with WALGA.

Another perspective given by stakeholders described the difference in roles WALGA plays for country and metropolitan Local Governments. They noted that larger metropolitan Local Governments tend to be more independent and have more internal capabilities to advocate and lobby for their needs, whereas those smaller, country LGAs relied more on WALGA for support.



"Some of the larger metropolitan areas ... we're big enough to go after issues ourselves and we don't necessarily engage WALGA on it. You're not necessarily going to see the likes of Stirling, Swan, or Wanneroo and that going to WALGA every time to say, 'Oh, we've got this issue. Can you advocate for us?' We can go and do it ourselves. We're meeting with our local members and ministers quite regularly. But in the regions, they don't necessarily do that so well."

Awareness and understanding of the BPGR

Most stakeholders (85%) know a 'little' or 'a lot' about the BPGR. Awareness and understanding were higher among CEOs and State Councillors. Notably, 53% of CEOs stated that they know 'a lot' about the BPGR, compared to 25% of Elected Members.

Table 5. Awareness and understanding of the BPGR

	Total n=59	Region		Role		State Councillor	
		Country n=43	Metro n=15	EM / Mayor / Pres. n=40	CEO n=19	Yes n=11	No n=48
I have not heard of it before today	8%	5%	20%	13%	0%	0%	10%
I have heard of the name but unsure of the details	7%	7%	7%	5%	11%	0%	8%
I know a little about it	51%	53%	47%	58%	37%	36%	54%
I know a lot about it	34%	35%	27%	25%	53%	64%	27%
Total know a little / a lot	85%	88%	73%	83%	89%	100%	81%

Base: All stakeholders who completed long survey and were aware of the BPGR (n=59). Base: Q4. Which of these statements best describes your awareness and understanding of the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review?

Stakeholders in higher positions within the Local Government sector have stronger levels of awareness of the BGPR. For example, Mayors and Presidents felt it was their responsibility to funnel the information down to members of their Local Government, who tended to feel less immediately impacted by WALGA's governance model and therefore had less reason to take notice of the BPGR.

"I think unless you know the governance structure already, it may not be immediately obvious to people who don't have that first-hand interaction, like on State Council or the zone.... I think for a lot of people who you know aren't at the coalface they were like 'oh, yeah, well, what does that mean? You know, how's that going to affect us?'"



One stakeholder noted that those who are new to the Local Government sector tend to have less understanding of WALGA's governance, as well as historical context, and therefore may be less engaged with the entire review process.

"It may be that some of the members aren't even aware. But some of them probably wouldn't even understand what the current structure is like, so a review is probably not that meaningful to them."

Despite varying levels of understanding, engagement from WALGA is contributing to the knowledge around the purpose and goals of the BPGR, including WALGA communications, discussions with Local Government colleagues, Zone meetings, and for some, discussions with a WALGA staff member.

Table 6. Where stakeholders have seen or heard about the BPGR

	Total n=59	Region		Role		State Councillor	
		Country n=43	Metro n=15	EM / Mayor / Pres. n=40	CEO n=19	Yes n=11	No n=48
WALGA communications	89%	88%	92%	85%	100%	91%	88%
Discussion with colleagues within my Local Government	56%	51%	67%	52%	63%	45%	58%
Discussion during Zone meetings	39%	37%	50%	30%	58%	36%	40%
Discussion with a WALGA staff member	30%	27%	33%	27%	32%	64%	21%

Base: All stakeholders who completed long survey and aware of the BPGR (n=59). Q6. Where have you seen or heard about WALGA Best Practice Governance Review?

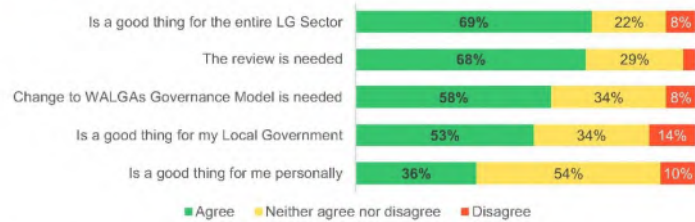


Attitudes towards the BPGR

Perceived need for the review

More than half of stakeholders said that the BPGR is a good thing for the entire Local Government sector, and **over two-thirds agree that the review is needed**.

Figure 1. Perceptions on the need for the BPGR



Base: All stakeholders who completed long survey and aware of the BPGR (n=59). Q9. Based on what you have just read, which of these words and phrases would you associate with the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review? Percentages <3% are omitted for clarity of presentation.

Change to the current model is seen as necessary by 58%, with only 8% disagreeing.

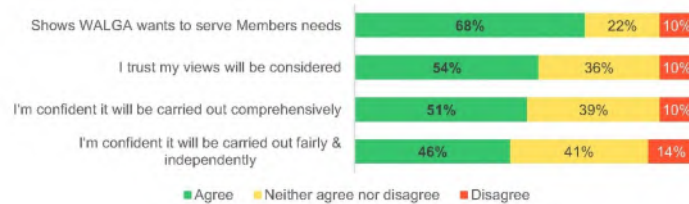
Stakeholders were somewhat less convinced that the BPGR is a good thing for their Local Government or themselves. Only 36% felt the BPGR was a good thing for themselves personally, and 14% disagreed that it was a good thing for their Local Government.

How the review is being conducted

Most Stakeholders are confident (68%) that WALGA are wanting to serve the needs of their members and trust that their views will be considered (54%) through this consultation process. They are less likely to believe that the review will be carried out comprehensively and are more likely to feel apprehensive as to whether the review will be carried out fairly and independently



Figure 2. Attitudes on what the BPGR says about WALGA and trust in WALGA to carry it out



Base: All stakeholders who completed long survey and aware of the BPGR (n=59). Q9. Based on what you have just read, which of these words and phrases would you associate with the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review?

Engagement with the BGPR was high, with three in four interested in the review and more than 60% having discussed the review with others. However, the results from the survey contrast with what was said by stakeholders we interviewed, who reported low levels of interest within their Local Government. Stakeholders we interviewed attributed this to the Elected Members being too busy within their roles and other commitments to be interested in governance change from an independent body.

Figure 3. Interest in the BGPR and communications with others



Base: All stakeholders who completed long survey and aware of the BPGR (n=59). Q9. Based on what you have just read, which of these words and phrases would you associate with the WALGA Best Practice Governance Review? Percentages <3% are omitted for clarity of presentation.

The timing of the review has also affected attitudes amongst stakeholders, as the end of the year was seen as one of the busiest periods of the year for Local Governments, with the sector wrapping up before Christmas and the New Year.

A minority of those we spoke to felt uncertainty towards the Review, with one unsure as to how it will proceed once all feedback has been collected.

"I'm not entirely sure how the decision around which model will be adopted will be made, so obviously you're doing this survey at the moment, and there's been forums and things at the AGM and so on and so on. But in terms of the actual decision, I'm not clear on whether that's going to be a decision that comes through the zone meetings up



to State Council, or whether that's going to be something that individual Local Governments are requested to make or to have a position on through a formal Council resolution, and that gets up to into the decision making."

What difference the review will make

Very few we spoke to believe that a radical change can or will be adopted¹. They believe that a somewhat conservative mentality amongst enough Local Government representatives will prevent the adoption of very different models.

Some that were interviewed stated that if a new model is introduced, **there needs to be a careful change management process**. Many needed more information on the specific workings of the proposed alternative models to allay concerns (e.g., about representatives, how different bodies will work together, whether the independents will have voting powers, timing of meetings)

"It'll depend on how it's put to the Local Government, how the detail is explained to them, how it would operate, and how they can engage with WALGA through their State Council or whatever it may be... so yeah it will really depend on how it is sold"

If no model is introduced, the status quo will continue. This is not seen as the 'worst case' outcome by most of those we interviewed, but the majority would agree that efficiency and effectiveness will remain below optimal.

"You know, if there's no change in the end of it, well, I look at it and say, well, it's not broken, you know, it does, it does its job. I just think it could be so much better."

Likewise, **retaining the current model may reinforce a degree of disillusionment and or disengagement with WALGA**. Some fear that maintaining the status quo may lead others in the Local Government sector to perceive this process as a missed opportunity.

"I really hope this isn't a "let's say we consulted with our members" survey but then you just ignore what we tell you."

¹ This subsection primarily draws on findings from the qualitative interviews.



How the review has been communicated

Overall, those we interviewed felt that **communication from WALGA has been even-handed and neutral**, with WALGA being seen by stakeholders as quite impartial and level about the process. WALGA throughout the consultation period has provided offerings of surveys, emails, webinars, and formal presentations to councils by the CEO.

“There has been a lot of communication coming out from WALGA. They have been extremely proactive in that space. There was an item that went to the organisation’s AGM to set the guidelines for what the sector wanted as the principles behind the governance review.”

Although most stakeholders we spoke with agree that there has been significant consultation from WALGA, a small number of Councillors noted that the communications presented have been hard to understand and confusing.

From the survey results, ‘easy to understand’ was the lowest scoring metric for BPGR Communications. Only 30% of stakeholders found WALGA communications completely easy to understand. ‘Informative’ was the second lowest scoring metric; only 37% found WALGA communications completely informative.

Table 7. WALGA Communications

	Completely	Somewhat	Does not describe it at all
Trustworthy	44%	54%	2%
Relevant to me	44%	48%	7%
Transparent	39%	54%	7%
Informative	37%	54%	9%
Easy to understand	30%	63%	7%

Base: All stakeholders who completed long survey and aware of the BPGR (n=59)
Q8. Please rate the statement below on WALGA’s communication about the Best Practice Governance Review.

A small number of stakeholders in the open-ended survey feedback identified confusion as to why the comparator organisations had been chosen or why WA had been compared to other States and Territories.

“The relevance of the five comparator organisations is not made clear nor is information provided on the other States, Territories and NZ shown. The selection and role of independents is not disclosed and not understood.”

The timing of the review has also been a contentious point with stakeholders, as some claim the amount of time, they had to respond to the review was limited, due to the nature of being a Councillor, with many having other forms of employment or



responsibilities alongside being an elective member.




"Admittedly, the first few people I contacted when this came out being the other presidents of the other three shires, they were 'pretty lukewarm, only because everyone's so damn busy that you know you kind of look at those things and go well that's not going to be my problem."



Stakeholder Model Preferences

We presented all models in a summary table (as shown below) in the survey, and asked stakeholders to rank each option in order of their most preferred (1) to least preferred (5). We then asked stakeholders to briefly describe the main reason they chose their most preferred model over the others.

Table 8. Comparison of different governance models under consideration

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Current Model
	Board (11 members) 8 elected from Policy Council, incl. Board elected President. Up to 3 independents.	Board (11 members) 8 elected from Regional Bodies, incl. Board elected President. Up to 3 independents.	Board (15 members) 12 elected from Zones, incl. Board elected President. Up to 2 independents.	Board (11 members) 8 elected via direct election, incl. Board elected President. Up to 3 independents.	State Council (25 members) 24 State Councilors, 1 President.
	Policy Council (25 Members) 24 members (elected from Zones) plus President.	Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Policy Teams / Forums / Committees	Policy Teams / Forums / Committees
	Zones (5 metro, 12 country)	Regional Bodies (4 metro, 4 country)	Zones (6 metro, 6 country)	Regional Groups	Zones (5 metro, 12 country)

Note: All stakeholders were also provided a link to the WALGA BPGR Consultation Paper further describing each model.

Overall, **Models 1 and 3** found stronger, more consistent support, the **current model** was highly polarising, and **Models 2 and 4** were less preferred overall.

The results of both the feedback we heard from stakeholders about each model in terms of likes and dislikes, as well as an overall model ranking by different voting systems, is presented below.



Table 9. Summary of each WALGA governance model likes and dislikes

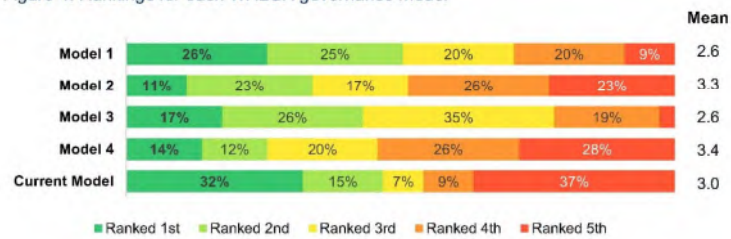
	Likes	Dislikes
Model 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of smaller board Keeps representation in policy council and zones Adds value to the current model whilst modernising WALGA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be seen as only a minor modification to the current model Too many members on the policy council to be efficient Questions around how board will take on view of the policy council will interact Maintaining the current zone structure could be inefficient
Model 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller board size and composition Appears to be more in line with governance structure in corporations / State Government electoral Zones Retains Policy Teams, Forums and Committees input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional bodies risk reducing overall regional representation Perception that large Regional Bodies proposed are not representative of the diversity of issues faced by remote/regional shire councils
Model 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to current model but with a reduced size LG representation is inclusive and suggested Zone structure is seen as more workable Retains Policy Teams, Forums and Committees input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could be seen as only a minor modification to the current model Board arguably remains too large Division of Zones is contentious – some of the indicative groupings may not represent the area effectively as there are competing activities and priorities
Model 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy teams are issued based Responsive and results orientated Regional groups determined by members to suit needs Appears to be more aligned to contemporary corporate governance structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear as to how all regions would be equally represented in the absence of current Zone structure Regional Group composition may dilute Local Government voices in favour of special interest groups Concern from country members that their voice may be drowned out by major Regional Groups (e.g., GAPP, Regional Capitals)
Current Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Zones are representative allowing for a diverse range of input from the state State Council representation from Zones allows for the representation of low population groups Roles within the model are fairly well understood and defined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regions and country areas seen to have a disproportionate influence Some councils are not engaged in the process at the Zone or State Council levels Contribution of Zones varies, but some perceived as being slow and adding little value Excessive number of State Councillors slows policy and advocacy, and prevents high-level strategic focus Not all issues dealt with represent the Local Government Sector as a whole Some State Councillors too focused on representing their shire and/or Zone self-interests



Overall Model Rankings

The rankings for each governance model from the survey are shown below. The mean represents the average rank provided for each model, where values closer to one are more preferred, and values closer to five are less preferred

Figure 4. Rankings for each WALGA governance model



Base: All stakeholders who completed the survey (n=109). Q32. Here is a summary of all the five governance models side by side, including the current model (Option 5). Please rank these options in order of your most-preferred (1) to least-preferred (5).

The mean rankings for each model suggest that **Models 1 and 3 are roughly equal in being most preferred overall**, followed by the current model, then models 2 and 4 respectively. Although Model 1 had a higher proportion of first rankings (i.e., most preferred) than Model 3, it also had a higher proportion of fifth rankings (i.e., least preferred) in comparison (9% for Model 1 vs 3% Model 3).

Preferences for the **current model** were polarised, **being ranked both first and last most often**. Averaging these views saw the current model positioned in the middle of all models under consideration by WALGA. It should be noted that there were strong opinions from stakeholders in qualitative feedback, both for and against the current model.

Models 2 and 4 found less support in stakeholders' ranked preferences overall, with around half or more ranking these models least preferred or second least preferred. The mean rankings show a clear gap in terms of preference between Models 2 and 4 and 1 and 3.



Most preferred model

To determine which one of the five WALGA governance models presented was most preferred, we used four different methods presented below. Under most voting methods, Model 1 was the most preferred, although Model 3 also performed strongly.

Table 10. Voting results from ranked preferences for each governance model

Method	How it works	Pros and cons	Winner
<i>First-past-the-post</i>	The model with the most first ranks wins.	Pros: Easy to understand Cons: Ignores import information in lower ranks, may select a model very unpopular with many	Current Model 32% first rankings
<i>Instant run-off voting</i>	The model with 50% or more first rankings wins. If no model achieves this, the model with the fewest first rankings is removed and the votes for this model are reallocated to the voters' next most preferred choice. This process is repeated until a winner is found.	Pros: Familiar in an Australian context, allocates preferences in a fair manner Cons: May select a winner with only just over 50%	Model 1 Favoured over Current Model 63 votes to 46
<i>Borda</i>	The model with the lowest mean score wins. Each model's rankings are treated as scores (e.g., ranking a model first allocates it one point, ranking a model second allocates it two points, etc.).	Pros: Provides an indication of preference strength Cons: Potentially harder to interpret	Model 1 Note: Both this and Model 3 achieved an average rank of 2.6
<i>Condorcet / Copeland</i>	The winner from each possible pairing of models is calculated. The model that wins over all the others head-to-head most frequently wins overall.	Pros: Easy to understand Cons: May select a winner that only just beats out an alternative	Model 1

Base: All stakeholders who completed survey (n=109). Q32. Here is a summary of all the five governance models side by side, including the current model (Option 5). Please rank these options in order of your most-preferred (1) to least-preferred (5). All results calculated using the 'votesys' package for R.

To visualise the results of the instant run-off voting, the share of first votes after removing the model with the fewest in each round is shown below.

Table 11. Results of Instant-Runoff Voting

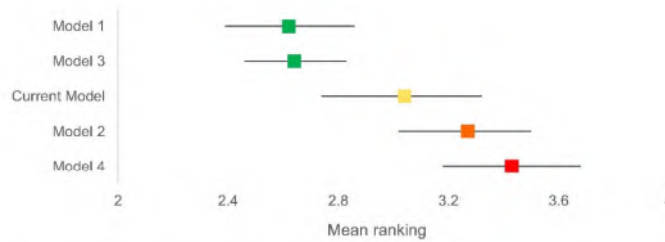
	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Final Round
Model 1	26%	28%	37%	58%
Current Model	32%	32%	32%	42%
Model 3	17%	23%	31%	
Model 4	14%	17%		
Model 2	11%			

Base: All stakeholders who completed the survey (n=109). Q32. Here is a summary of all the five governance models side by side, including the current model (Option 5). Please rank these options in order of your most-preferred (1) to least-preferred (5). The model removed at each round of voting is shown in italics.



To visualise the results of the Borda count, the mean rankings are shown below. These results indicate that in terms of average rankings, Models 1 and 3 were very close.

Figure 5. Distribution of mean rankings for each model



Base: All stakeholders who completed the survey (n=109). Q32. Here is a summary of all the five governance models side by side, including the current model (Option 5). Please rank these options in order of your most-preferred (1) to least-preferred (5). Lines represent stratified bootstrapped 95% confidence intervals.

To visualise the results of the Condorcet/Copeland method, a table of head-to-head wins and losses for each model is shown below. These represent the proportion of times a model was ranked above another (wins, along the rows) and below (losses, along the columns). Models listed in the rows denote the winning model.

Table 12. Head-to-Head Wins and Losses for Each Model

		Losses					
		Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Current Model	Mean
Wins	Model 1	-	62%	54%	63%	58%	59%
	Model 2	38%	-	34%	55%	47%	43%
	Model 3	46%	66%	-	68%	56%	59%
	Model 4	37%	45%	32%	-	43%	39%
	Current Model	42%	53%	44%	57%	-	49%
Mean		41%	57%	41%	61%	51%	

Base: All stakeholders who completed the survey (n=109). Q32. Here is a summary of all the five governance models side by side, including the current model (Option 5). Please rank these options in order of your most-preferred (1) to least-preferred (5). Numbers represent proportion of times the model in the row was ranked above the model in the column.

Model 1 and Model 3 perform similarly (on average) in head-to-head comparisons with all other models, both winning 59% (on average) of the time. Model 1 was slightly higher at 59.4% with Model 3 at 58.9% (with rounding, both landed on 59%). However, when putting both models against each other head-to-head, Model 1 wins against Model 3 in 54% of the rankings.

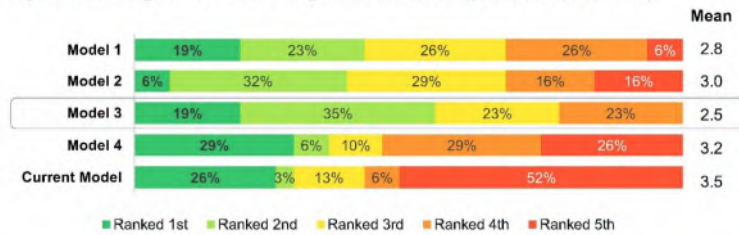


Rankings by Metro and Country Zones

Metropolitan Local Governments

Considering the mean rankings, **Model 3 was most preferred overall in metropolitan Local Governments**, with more than half ranking this as their first or second preference.

Figure 6. Rankings for each WALGA governance model by Metro Zones (n = 31)

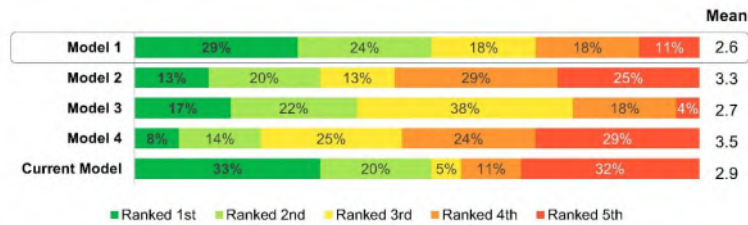


Although Model 4 attracted the highest number of first rankings from this group, it appeared to be divisive, with half ranking it last or second to last. Metropolitan Local Governments representatives were more noticeably negative about the current model (with more than half rating it fifth out of five).

Country Local Governments

Considering the mean rankings, **Model 1 was most preferred overall in country Local Governments**, with 53% ranking this as their first or second preference.

Figure 7. Rankings for each WALGA governance model by Country Zones (n = 76)



Model 3 was also ranked highly overall, with a similar mean rank due to being ranked last less often compared to Model 1. While country Local Governments were somewhat



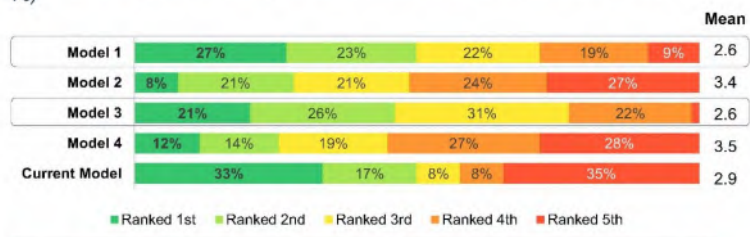
more positive about the current model, roughly 1 in 3 still ranked it last overall.

Rankings by role

Elected Members, Presidents, and Mayors

Considering the mean rankings, **Models 1 and 3 were equally preferred overall by Elected Members, Presidents, and Mayors.**

Figure 8. Rankings for WALGA governance models by EMs, Presidents, Mayors (n = 78)

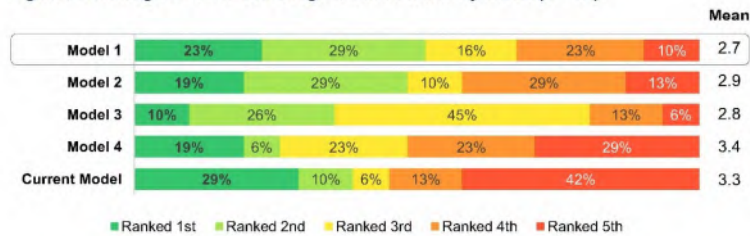


Neither Model 1 or 3 were clear favourites among this group, when considering both first and last rankings of each model. This group tended to prefer the current model, relative to the CEOs, although one in three would still rank it last in terms of preference.

CEOs

Considering the mean rankings, **Model 1 was preferred by CEOs.**

Figure 9. Rankings for each WALGA governance model by CEOs (n = 31)



CEOs were more positive on Model 2 compared to other groups, although this model was still less preferred compared to Model 1.

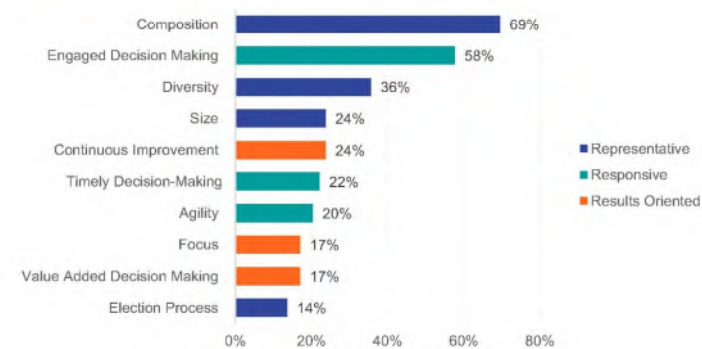


Common Feedback on Models

Importance of governance principles

We asked which three principles were most important to people in the design of different governance models. Overall, **WALGA being representative of Local Governments came out as the most important overarching principle**, as shown below in Figure 10.

Figure 10. Top principles in the design of WALGA's governance model



Base: All stakeholders who completed the survey (n=109). Q11. While all of the principles are deemed important by the Steering Committee, WALGA recognises that some principles may be more important than others to members in the design of different governance models. Which of the following are the most important to you? Please select your top 3.

More than two in three said that the composition of WALGA's governance model properly representing Local Government members from metropolitan *and* country Councils was in their top three principles guiding any proposed design. Approximately three in five said it was important that WALGA's Local Government members are engaged in decision-making processes under any governance model. Finally, over a third felt that WALGA's governance should reflect the diversity and experience of its Local Government members.

Notably, **results orientation appeared to be less important** amongst those we heard from. Likewise, timeliness of decision-making and agility were selected as key priorities in a governance model by just one in five.



Board Composition

How large should the board be?

The alternative models proposed by WALGA see the State Council superseded by a board structure of between 11 to 15 members. While this overall number was seen as more aligned with best practice (both amongst similar bodies to WALGA and in the private sector), when factoring in two to three independents, this meant only four to six board members each from metropolitan and country regions.²

Many stakeholders we spoke to were enthusiastic about reducing the size of the State Council. A number of stakeholders spoken to noted that size of the State Council was not just large by comparison to similar bodies across Australia and New Zealand, but extremely large in comparison to private firms with board structures, and therefore not consistent with best practice.

"At the major companies around Australia that are active, and their governance is very good, they've probably got 7 or 8 on the board. And I think that is where we should be as well. At 23, 24 et cetera ... we're getting people filling up spaces just to fill up spaces."

Nonetheless, all acknowledged that **shrinking down the numbers on a board would pose challenges.** These challenges related to:

- A. **Representation:** Ensuring appropriate representation (both perceived and actual) given reduced numbers
- B. **Capability:** Making sure a reduced number of Board Members are all highly competent capable
- C. **Continuity:** Resilience in the event of State Councillors leaving / being replaced.

With 24 State Councillors, there are more access points and opportunities for stakeholders to bring issues to the table. To successfully transition to a smaller board size, members would need a higher level of trust in how their needs will be heard and represented.

"I mean, it almost comes from a non-trust point of view where we think the State Councillors are out to do something bad. The reality is you put good people in there to ensure they understand the sector and do the best for the sector."

Similarly, if just one or two board members are ill-equipped for the role or overlook the concerns and needs of Local Governments they nominally represent, their influence

² This section primarily draws on findings from the qualitative interviews.



may be outsized. Those from country Local Governments were particularly worried about the impact of a small number of board members under-representing their needs.

"If you do go to a smaller number of board members representing the country, you need to vote for those four and have to have a serious look at what each of the four have to offer."

Continuity and resilience of the State Council/board structure was another key theme. With the membership of a smaller board continually changing, the level of continuity of experience and relationships built up with members will be reduced from the current model of 24 State Councillors. Some had concerns that new board members coming in may not be as efficient or as strong advocates of their Local Government's needs.

"The board need to cut numbers because they're too unwieldy, but they've got the right context of the people they need on there ... you don't want to wind up with a six-person board because it's functional, agile and then all of a sudden two of them drop off and they end up with two that are average and think, 'Gee, I wish we still had nine'."

What will be the role of independents?

Each alternative model includes two to three independents on the board. The principle of having **independents on the board was well received by some stakeholders**. The argument commonly cited in favour of introducing independents was to bring in fresh perspectives and shape a more collaborative approach from the board with bodies external to Local Government (e.g., in State Government, Industry). Others felt that independents could fill skills shortages and improve decision-making.

"I'm a real fan of the Independent Skills, or Constituency directors. I think that lots of policy issues ... they're not necessarily earmarked into one particular geographical area ... Local Government are very much a closed shop, and we like to keep things to ourselves. Having independents come in and provide independent support and advice provides a different lens over things that we necessarily wouldn't ordinarily see and to validate and address some of the perception issues that we've got within the broader community"

Nonetheless, **many had serious questions and concerns about who will make it onto the board, and what decision-making power** they would have.

Some felt that *"nobody understands Local Government better than Local Government"*. As such, independents may not have the requisite understanding of Local Government to add value to the decision-making process. From this perspective, if independents are to be introduced, only those with extensive experience in Local Government should be considered.



"If you're going to bring outside independent members...what do they know about the working of Local Government? I can find Local Government elected Members that don't even know the act that they meant to work under, let alone independent Members. They don't know the constraints that we work under. They don't know the community backlash we cop as Local Governments."

Others wanted **clarity on the terms of reference** for decision-making within the board. The idea of allowing Independents to vote on board matters seemed questionable when the remainder of the board were required to be elected from their communities.

"I am curious around independent people's voting powers. Considering that all of the other Members are elected representatives that have been elected by the Community to represent them, and then you've got independent members. So three out of eleven is fairly significant in terms of shaping policy."

Still others felt that introducing independents as a means of connection to broader State Government/Industry missed the mark, as this function should be the role of WALGA administration itself.

Nonetheless, even those most strongly opposed to independents on the board were receptive to the board receiving independent consultancy / advice on particular issues (on an as-needed basis), as long as decision-making responsibility remained vested in State Council/board comprising exclusively of representative Local Government members.

Timing of body meetings

Across all alternative models, many we spoke to were **confused about the timing of governance body meetings**³. For example, the WALGA Consultation Paper has most Policy Councils/Zones/Regional Body structures described as meeting "at least 2 times per year", which some interpreted as mean they would meet *only* twice per year.

While bodies may meet more frequently than this, stakeholders who were of the understanding that these bodies would only meet twice per year worried that they would not deliver responsiveness and agility necessarily.

"Meeting twice per year doesn't seem enough considering the amount of policy that WALGA deals with, and if you wanting meaningful input take advantage of the expertise and the interest that you have in the broader sector."

³ This section primarily draws on findings from the qualitative interviews.



Feedback on Models

The following section primarily draws on the qualitative interviews and the open-ended feedback collected in the surveys.

Current Model

Opinions on how well WALGA's current governance model works are polarised. There is a general consensus amongst all stakeholders that **the current model does work**, but there **are improvements to be made**, especially in terms of agility.

Overall, the structure of the current model appears to **prioritise aspects of representation over responsiveness and results orientation**. To ensure proper representation, the current model is seen to have a high volume of procedural and bureaucratic obligations, which slows the pace of work.

"I guess for me, it really covers the country, and non-metropolitans quite well ... Everyone feels that they have access. But it is slow ... it does take quite a long time to get a response back from some of these things."

Opinions on the current model were broadly split into three camps.

1. **Detractors:** This group sees the current model as frustrating, outdated and at times irrelevant, even if it remains functional.
2. **Proponents:** This group sees the current model as fundamentally sound and only in need of minor improvements.
3. **Fence sitters:** This last group were a minority, with a view in-between proponents and detractors. sensitive to both sides' perspectives.

Detractors are more likely to be disengaged with processes at WALGA (e.g., purposely not interacting with Zones, seeking advocacy on policy from bodies external to WALGA) and express dissatisfaction, particularly with the speed and strategic focus of decision-making. Detractors mainly cited the size of the State Council and number/organisation of the Zones as inefficient, although they tended to be more supportive of and enthusiastic towards Policy Teams/Forums/Committees.

Proponents tended to be more sensitive to representation, particularly of smaller country Local Governments. Few proponents felt that WALGA was performing as best it could, but viewed any serious, structural change from the current model would pose an unacceptable risk to representation. Instead, proponents advocated a range of alternative strategies, such as improvements to communication processes, State Council / Zone representative training, and/or reform within the WALGA administration.



Fence sitters did want change to the governance model, but commonly felt it would not eventuate through the BPGR. These individuals remain engaged with WALGA and support its mission but feel either that a tension between representativeness and responsiveness is too difficult to resolve, or that more conservative elements within WALGA's Governance Structure will inevitably favour the status quo. This group would appear to be small (as seen in Figure 4), where most either ranked the current model first or last in terms of preference.

Size and Effectiveness of State Council

There was a broad consensus from all interviews that the current **State Council structure is not as efficient as it could be**. A majority of stakeholders that were spoken to attributed this to the State Council being overly large, reducing the Council's agility in decision-making. Of those we spoke to, some felt that State Councillors should be focussed on more strategic priorities and agendas during meetings, and that they often need to contend with more low-level matters than they should.

The few interviewees who felt the **current size was appropriate** and necessary **cited the principle of representation**. These individuals felt that reducing the size of the State Council risked having some Local Government bodies lose their voice, particularly in country areas. Nonetheless, even those who did want to see State Councillors remain at current levels said that some State Councillors do not contribute at a level equal to others, and the quality of State Councillor contributions is variable. This was seen as an **issue of selection and training of State Councillors**, rather than a structural issue related to the size.

There is also limited visibility and/or awareness of how State Council delivers outcomes if your Local Government does not have a representative on it. One stakeholder we spoke to felt that the current State Council structure and role felt quite removed from her Local Government due to no local representative.

"At the moment, things will go up to State Council and there's limited visibility of it at the Local Government level at times. I guess one of the reasons might be is that our Local Government doesn't have one of our councillors as a representative on the State Council. It might be different if one of our councillors was sitting on that governance body because then you'd have sort of a direct line, but it has to go through sort of a series of channels to work its way back to you."

Mixed views on Zones

Perceptions were similarly polarised on the usefulness of Zones under WALGA's current governance model. **At best**, some of those who we spoke to felt that **Zones served a vital role** in bringing together Local Governments with a shared sense of purpose and



identity. **At worst**, some felt that **Zones were little more than an additional bureaucratic burden**, failing to add value and even slowing or watering down important policy work.

"I think the current structure that we've got allows the Zones to get into stuff that they don't necessarily need to and just overcomplicates. And then, you know, it goes to another Zone. And should we send it to this Zone? Let's get all Zones to get together and have a position on it, and then it all gets debated again ... it's a really cumbersome process."

Those more critical of Zones felt that they contribute little and create excessive bureaucracy. The process of needing to feed policy and governance communications out from State Council to Local Governments via Zones was seen as double handling.

"It's almost doing the work of what councils should have done anyway [in providing feedback to WALGA]"

For some, the borders of Zones seem arbitrary. Stakeholders noted for example that the northern metropolitan area forms just one Zone, despite having a population of nearly 600,000 (representing over one fifth of WA's population), compared to a population of less than 3,000 in the Murchison Zone. For some country Zones there appeared to be wide gaps in the needs and priorities of Local Governments of regional capitals and those of more remote communities. Conversely, in metropolitan areas, neighbours living in the adjacent suburbs of Perth likely experience very similar living conditions and issues, but are represented by two different Zones (e.g., Inglewood in North Metropolitan and Bedford in East Metropolitan).

There was also an occasional perception that Zones continue to exist as a de facto social network or club, particularly in the regional areas, rather than a focused and efficient policy platform. As a result, stakeholders at times expressed a view that Zones do not always prioritise highly strategic work and take too much time discussing more trivial issues.

Perceptions on the usefulness of Zones amongst stakeholders we spoke to varied by

- **The Zone your Local Government falls under:** There were reports from stakeholders who had worked under different Local Governments that the performance of Zones they'd experienced varied.
- **Whether you're a Zone representative:** Generally, we found that stakeholders we spoke to currently working as Zone representatives felt more positive on the work that Zones do.

Some Zones appear more efficient and effective in representing the needs of the Local Governments they represent, while others seem to have less value.



"There's very little interaction in meetings. The agendas will come out often, not that far in advance. The elected Members will go to the meeting and then there's often not a lot of actual discussion in the meeting. So, there's not a real sense of ability to influence things much"

Stakeholders who are not actively engaged with any WALGA Governance bodies (e.g., State Council, Zones etc) seemed to be uncertain on what they do and how they work. If they did have any opinion, this tended toward negative perception on how well Zones currently function.

Policy Teams, Forums, and Committees

We generally heard **positive feedback on current Policy Teams, Forums and Committees** from stakeholders we spoke to. Overall, these are seen as more focused and effective than Zones in achieving their goals. Only two points of feedback emerged as critical towards these bodies.

First, there is opportunity for improvement by providing these bodies with more autonomy to present policy decisions. Policy Teams, Forums, and Committees at times need to feed their positions back through the Zones and the State Council for review, which can slow their work. Second, there were some reports that parallel policy and advocacy bodies (e.g., Regional Capitals Alliance) independent of WALGA appear to be meeting unmet needs more effectively.

Model 1: Two Tier Model, Existing Zones

Opinions on Governance Model 1 were moderately positive. This model was broadly **seen as a comparatively 'safer' compromise** between the current model and the other proposed alternatives. Those who were averse to change perceived themselves as less at risk of "losing out" representation under this alternative, while potentially improving governance outcomes.

"I just felt that between the Zones and the Policy Council, it would give people that representation, as well as making the board more agile ... I think it gives people more of an opportunity to bring a whole range of issues that are a bit left of centre."

However, those who were **more in favour of change were less enthusiastic** about this model, seeing this as not going quite far enough in revising WALGA's governance model and opening some new risks.

"This model is probably better to keep people happy for on both sides of the fence and more contemporary ... but this is probably not as far"



reaching as what I would want. It's an easy option."

Size of governance bodies

This model proposes retaining a similar Zone structure to the current model and forming a Policy Council with a membership similar in composition to the current State Council, with the ability to form Policy teams, forums, and committees. Despite the smaller size of the new board structure, given the size of these governance bodies, some felt that this model may not improve agility or efficiency, and as such entail no serious improvement on these criteria over the current model.

"If you're trying to run the Policy Council with 25 people, 25 opinions, it's a near on impossible task for the chair to get consensus on that and that's why it's a time-consuming, cumbersome process."

The two biggest issues flagged related to the redundancy of input by each body, and the timeliness of getting feedback. Some felt that the Policy Council and Zones would be in a position of giving the Board the same information twice on certain matters, introducing more work for little benefit. Additionally, getting consensus from such a large Policy Council (24 members plus President) was viewed as a challenge, and risked slowing the pace of providing input to the Board.

"Because it's such a big group sitting around on the Policy Council trying to determine policy, I just think it's flawed."

Interactions between Policy Council and Board

Most stakeholders we spoke to who had critically assessed this model had questions about how the Policy Council and Board would interact. With a smaller Board responsible at a high level for the governance of WALGA, it was unclear and difficult to say how directives from the Policy Council would be received and actioned.

"I think you'll get frustrated Members on the Board sitting around having to listen to the Policy Council, and then sensibly rejecting what they do."

Some felt that the Policy Council risked becoming a 'toothless tiger' that was free to provide input on policy positions and advocacy but had no guarantees of seeing their guidance fulfilled by the Board. On the other hand, some felt that the Board may need to appease the Policy Council to keep membership on side, meaning fast, decisive, and strategic decision-making may be limited.

"You can keep your State Council, but we're not gonna call you a State Councillor. We're just gonna pretend you've got a role, but you haven't really because the Board makes the decision ... and then"



you'll have a Board who's got an added pressure of thinking 'well, if we don't accept something from the Policy Council, we're gonna have the membership against us' ... I don't think it can be successful."

Model 2: Board, Regional Bodies

Opinions on governance model 2 were less positive. Few if any of the stakeholders we spoke to expressed any strong enthusiasm for this model, and most of the feedback we heard surrounded concerns on how Regional Bodies would be designed.

Composition of Regional Bodies

The most positive perceptions around the design of Regional Bodies under Model 2 related to the shared needs of proposed country areas and rough alignment with the current Western Australian Legislative Council electoral regions. Of note, the proposal of including a body for Regional Capitals was a potential positive due to their shared policy development and advocacy interests, despite geographic distance.

However, **most of the perceptions were more sceptical of how such Regional Bodies would function**. A vast majority of stakeholders from areas were **concerned about combining such diverse Local Governments** together and thereby losing focused representation on the ground. Particularly in areas to the north of the State, stakeholders were concerned about having just one body represent issues affecting places as dispersed as Coral Bay, Meekatharra, and Wyndham, for example.

"You know the if you put all the agricultural together, that's where I'd put maybe a hundred plus councils? I mean, I can understand that they would have similar issues, I just wonder whether issues would get lost in the bigger scheme of things. You know, it's hard to get all those people together into those country Zones."

Some noted that it would be a **challenge to separate regional capitals from their broader region**. For example, The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder could reasonably be *both* a regional capital and mining and pastoral, given that this Local Government comprises both the City of Kalgoorlie and another 95,575 square kilometres of land primarily to the west. In principle, Local Governments may have to choose which body they fall under, or else be doubly represented across bodies.

Influence of the Board

A few stakeholders who we spoke to noted that under this model, a Board of 11 individuals appear to:

- A. Determine the membership of Regional Bodies,



- B. Determine the membership of Policy Teams/Forums/Committees,
- C. Directly appoint the independent skills or constituency directors, and
- D. Elect the President.

They claimed that this potentially **grants the Board a disproportionate level of influence over the entire governance model**, relative to other models under consideration. In addition, it would appear that there is a feedback loop between the Board and Regional Bodies, wherein Board members are drawn from Regional Bodies, and Regional Body membership has been selected by the Board.

"You really want your Policy Teams to be your experts in the field be able to bring that sort of independent advice back through for consideration by the Board... but you're using the same members of the Regional Body and they are there on the Policy Teams as well. I don't know why you'd separate it out. And you just have a single group to do it.... just seems to be too much of a duplication."

Model 3: Board, Amalgamated Zones

Similar to governance model 1, opinions on governance model 3 were moderately positive. This model was also **seen as a 'safe' compromise** between the current model and the other proposed alternatives, with the potential to be easier to manage yet still representative.

"It does demonstrate a governance improvement in terms of the representation and would hopefully result in better decision making, especially in terms of timeliness."

As with Model 1, stakeholders who want serious change to the current model don't see this as an especially ambitious or exciting model but would acknowledge some improvement through reduce the numbers of Zones and State Councillors. Stakeholders who did not want change (preferring to remain with the current model) tended to be more positive towards this alternative compared to Models 2 and 4.

"It is the change that is needed, without being a significant change. It allows Zones to be reviewed, and it doesn't allow small metro Local Governments to take over"

Amalgamated Zones

For those in country areas, feedback on the proposed changes were mixed. Around half of the stakeholders in the affected Zones that we spoke to felt that the amalgamation of Zones would simplify the current structure while remaining representative. The remainder felt that this amalgamation again risked losing focused representation on the



ground (as seen in Model 2). For example, as a major coastal holiday destination, Broome faces very different circumstances to Tom Price, a Pilbara mining town, although both would likely fall under the proposed Pilbara / Kimberley Zone amalgamation.

"What don't I like about this model? It divides Zones up where some don't represent the area very well as there are competing activities and priorities."

A few stakeholders we heard from echoed these concerns about representation from the country, although the structure of their own Zones are largely unaffected by a shift to the model. Amongst those we heard from in the Peel region, their reclassification as a Metropolitan Zone was not raised a major concern, given the Zone remained intact.

The main concern from those more in favour of change was that **this model retained a seemingly large number of Zones** and looked too much like the existing governance structure. Ironically, this was often cited as a reason why this model may be the best change that these stakeholders could hope for.

"I still have the fundamental issue with the Zones providing that less effective layer in there and duplicating the work of Policy teams / Councils... you know, I don't think it's the most effective, but I do think it's probably the one that the majority of membership will support."

Size of the Board

This Model was distinct from the other three alternatives proposed by WALGA in having 15 members in total, with six from metropolitan and country areas respectively, plus a president and two independents.

Many of the voices who were less positive towards this model felt that a board of this size would still be too large and cumbersome to operate effectively. If this governance body should be strategic and focused on high-level matters, gaining consensus from this many board members could be time consuming and less progressive. On the other hand, proponents of the current model tended to still think this board would not be capable of representing the diversity of Local Governments across the state.

"Given the vast geographical differences across the state, I can't see a Board working any other way than what the State Council is at the moment."



Model 4: Member Elected Board, Regional Groups

Model 4 was seen as offering the boldest proposal for change, and therefore had strong proponents and strong detractors. We tended to find higher support for this model amongst stakeholders living in metropolitan Local Government areas and some regional capital areas.

Almost all feedback on this model centred on the potential positives and negatives of moving to a needs-based Regional Groups approach, and as such all findings relate to this component of the governance model.

Improved agility and focus under Regional Groups

Stakeholders in favour of this model felt that it would support a more agile, flexible, and fluid approach to policy development and decision-making. Those we spoke to felt that forming groups on an as-needed basis would reduce unnecessary time spent on meetings, inconsequential policy discussions, travel, etc. Having a Regional Group format replace a Zone-based governance body therefore represents progress by allowing ineffective bodies without clear policy / advocacy-based reasons for existing dissolve.

In addition, the formation of Regional Groups offers an opportunity to incorporate needs not seen as being met by WALGA's current governance structure that have necessitated the development of existing bodies (e.g., GAPP group). Under this perspective, many of these Regional Bodies already exist with good reason and incorporating them under a new governance structure simply recognises and incorporates their voices.

"The reality is that under the current model, the Regional Groups are all out there. They just don't get a chance to provide inputs to the State Council. So they go on social media and provide it against WALGA if they make a decision and undermine the policy position. Or, they don't talk to WALGA and they'll go and meet with the Minister on the same day that WALGA is meeting you them"

Risks of Regional Groups

Stakeholders who were less convinced of this model identified three key problems with Regional Groups.

First, some felt that a shift away from Zones to Regional groups may give disproportionate representation to larger / more influential groups. There was concern, especially in regional areas, that the voices of their own Local Governments would be



drowned out amongst the likes of a CEO Group, GAPP, Regional Capitals Alliance, etc. This highlighted a need for clarity in how Regional Groups' feedback would be provided to the board, and what the board would be likely to action on the basis of this.

Second, there was some worry that the creation of Regional Groups would prioritise the interests of industry, political factions, or more limited subsections of the local community, as opposed to a broad reflection of the needs of residents on the ground in each Local Government Area. In contrast, the current model with Zones is seen as being more driven by meeting the needs of the communities they represent.

"You know, a lot of those groups exist to represent their membership. Their membership is not community. The membership is often the business area that they represent. So there's a difference in the representation."

Finally, some felt that coordinating a unified voice from the Regional Groups will be difficult. This mainly poses a change for the board in how they action different viewpoints from such a diverse range of groups. Although each group may reflect specific needs, where one policy issue affects multiple different groups, achieving alignment and consistent policy directives could require collaboration and oversight.



From Insights to Action

Before discussing the gaps and opportunities for WALGA to address as a result of this research, it is worthwhile re-stating WALGA's aims for the Governance review:

The review represents an opportunity for WALGA and Local Government to review and reshape the current governance model to:

- *Deliver strong, clear, focused, and consistent policy positions on strategic matters of the most importance to Local Governments in WA,*
- *Drive advocacy outcomes and impact on behalf of Local Government in WA and the communities they serve, and*
- *Embed agility and responsiveness, ensuring member concerns are heard, respected, and represented in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.*

Critically, any new governance model requires endorsement by 75% of members voting at the September 2023 AGM.

Ipsos' findings conclude that as of mid-December 2022, a large proportion of stakeholders have concerns about the Best Practice Governance Review and the governance models included for testing. A failure to address these concerns will likely result in the preservation of the current governance structure.

Detailed Findings

There is a genuine opportunity for WALGA to engage with stakeholders on alternative models over the next nine months

What we found	Implication
68% agree the BPGR is necessary 58% agree that a change to WALGA's governance model is needed ... but only 3% and 8% disagree with the above statements, respectively. The remainder neither agree nor disagree (29% and 34%).	The high proportion of stakeholders that 'neither agree nor disagree' that change is needed suggests there is a genuine opportunity for WALGA to engage with stakeholders over the next nine months on what they want to see change in the governance model.



Stakeholders need to feel like the BPGR is fair for them and the Local Government they represent

What we found	Implication
68% agree WALGA is wanting to serve the needs of members	Stakeholders are uncertain of how the BPGR is being carried out and how decisions are made.
54% agree I trust my views will be considered	Future engagement by WALGA that better communicates the fairness of the process is needed. This will require listening to individual concerns and addressing them quickly and confidently.
51% agree I am confident the review will be carried out comprehensively	
46% agree I am confident the review will be carried out fairly and independently	

Many stakeholders are resistant to change. They need leadership and certainty from WALGA

What we found	Implication
Stakeholders believe the conservative mentality amongst some Local Government representatives will prevent the adoption of very different models	Many stakeholders are resistant to change.
Some that were interviewed stated that if a new model is introduced, a careful change management process will be needed.	To decide on whether to adopt an alternative model, stakeholders need the detail of exactly how it will operate. They want to be certain they are making the right choice.
If no model is introduced the status quo will continue. This is not seen as an especially bad outcome by Fence Sitters, but majority would agree that efficiency and effectiveness will remain below optimal.	Strong leadership by WALGA will help build trust that if a new model is chosen, it will be implemented successfully and will provide a better outcome for all stakeholders.

WALGA should review and adapt its communication strategy

What we found	Implication
Less than 45% of Stakeholders in the survey rated WALGA's communication about the BPGR as: trustworthy, relevant, transparent, informative. Just 30% rated WALGA's communications as 'easy to understand'.	WALGA should review and adapt its communication strategy for the remaining nine months of the BPGR.



When building and communicating an alternative governance model, be sure to address three themes: metropolitan and regional composition, engaged decision making and diversity

What we found	Implication
Top three principles in the design of a WALGA governance model:	Representation in metropolitan and country areas, how stakeholders will be engaged in decision-making, and the diversity and experience of stakeholders are essential themes for WALGA to address in future communications and engagement.
69% Composition - The composition of WALGA's governance model represents Local Government members from metropolitan and country Councils	
58% Diversity - WALGA's governance reflects the diversity and experience of its Local Government members	
36% Engaged Decision Making - WALGA's Local Government members are engaged in decision-making processes.	

The current governance model is simultaneously the most and least preferred

What we found	Implication
32% of Stakeholders ranked the current model as their first preference out of the five models included for testing. This was higher than model 1 (26%).	If the current model remains in place at the end of 2023, close to 4 in 10 stakeholders will be upset with the decision (based on the last preference vote for the current model). The magnitude of dissatisfaction could harm WALGA's relationship with the Local Government sector overall.
37% of Stakeholders ranked the current model as their last preference.	

Model 2 and Model 4 are candidates for removal

What we found	Implication
Model 2 lowest first preference (11%). Model 4 second lowest first preference (14%). Both models were ranked highly as last preference (+20%).	These two models are candidates for removal from WALGA's model options.
Some stakeholders liked the smaller board size and composition in Model 2. However, there were concerns that Regional bodies risk reducing overall regional representation, and that large Regional Bodies proposed are not representative of the diversity of issues faced by remote/regional shire councils.	WALGA should review the 'likes' of both models and identify benefits that can potentially be transferred to models 1 and 3.
Likewise, some stakeholders liked that Regional groups were determined by members to suit LG needs in Model 4, and its resemblance to contemporary corporate governance structures. However, it remained unclear as to how all regions would be equally represented in the absence of the current Zone structure. There was also concern that the Regional Group composition may dilute LG voices in favour of special interest groups.	



Model 1 and Model 3 are candidates for further development

What we found	Implication
<p>Model 1. Most preferred when all rankings considered. 27% first preference. 9% last preference.</p>	<p>Both models warrant further development by WALGA based on stakeholder first and overall preference votes.</p>
<p>Model 1. Likes - Establishment of smaller board whilst keeping representation in policy council and Zones. Adds value to the current model whilst modernising WALGA</p>	<p>WALGA can consider developing a hybrid model that takes the most liked features from both models.</p>
<p>Model 1 Dislikes - Could be seen as only a minor modification to the current model. Too many members on the policy council to be efficient. Maintaining the current zone structure could be inefficient.</p>	<p>Both models are liked in part for their perceived similarities to the current model.</p>
<p>Model 3. Next most preferred when all rankings considered. 21% first preference. 1% last preference.</p>	
<p>Model 3 Likes. Similar to the current model but with a reduced size. LG representation is inclusive and suggested Zone structure is seen as more workable. Retains Policy Teams, Forums and Committees' input.</p>	
<p>Model 3 Dislikes. Could be seen as only a minor modification to the current model. Board arguably remains too large. Division of Zones is contentious – some of the indicative groupings may not represent the area effectively as there are competing activities and priorities.</p>	

Six other key topic areas need to be addressed through WALGA engagement and communications

What we found	Implication
<p>Key topic areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Board – representation, capability, and continuity 2. Timing of body meetings – what is necessary and expected to remain responsive and agile. 3. Size of governance bodies 4. Interactions between Policy Council and Board 5. Composition of Regional Bodies 6. Selection and workings of potential amalgamated Zones. 	<p>These findings provide WALGA with guidance on what other topic areas to cover with stakeholders to break down barriers to adopting a new model.</p>



Appendix

Stakeholder Interviews

WALGA Staff Interviewees

Name	Role
Rebecca Brown	Manager, - Waste and Environment
Tim Lane	Manager - Strategy and Association Governance
Tony Brown	Executive Director - Member Services
Susie Moir	Policy Manager - Resilient Communities
Nicole Matthews	Executive Manager - Policy
Ian Duncan	Executive Manager - Infrastructure
Nick Sloan	CEO
Narelle Cant	Executive Manager - Advocacy

Local Government Stakeholder Interviewees

Name	LGA	Role
Andrew Brien	City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	CEO
Cheryl Cowell	Shire of Shark Bay	President
Jeremy Edwards	City of Bayswater	CEO
Deb Hamblin	City of Rockingham	Mayor
Mark Irwin	City of Stirling	Mayor
Wayne Jack	City of Kwinana	CEO
Rebecca McCall	Shire of Dowerin	CEO
Renee McLennan	Town of Bassendean	Deputy Mayor
Les Price	Shire of Cue	Deputy President
Michelle Rich	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale	President
Stephen Strange	Shire of Bruce Rock	President
Dennis Wellington	City of Albany	Mayor

APPENDIX 4 - LIST OF SUBMISSIONS

Local Government	OPTIONS IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE				
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
City of Albany	4	2	3	1	5
City of Armadale			1		
City of Bayswater				1	
Shire of Beverley					1
Shire of Boddington	1	2	3	4	5
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	1				2
Shire of Brookton	2				1
Shire of Broome	No preference				
Shire of Bruce Rock	1	4	3	2	5
City of Bunbury	1	2	3	4	5
City of Busselton		1	3	2	
Shire of Capel	1				
Shire of Carnamah					1
Shire of Chapman Valley	2				1
Shire of Chittering	1	4	3	2	5
Town of Claremont	1		1		
City of Cockburn	4	1	3	2	5
Shire of Coolgardie			1		
Shire of Coorow					1
Shire of Corrigin			1		2
Town of Cottesloe	1	3	2	4	5
Shire of Cuballing	4	3	1	5	2
Shire of Cue	2				1
Shire of Cunderdin	1				2
Shire of Dalwallinu	2	4	3	5	1
Shire of Dardanup	2	4	3	5	1
Shire of Derby-West Kimberley					1
Shire of Dowerin	1				2
Shire of Dumbleyung	No preference				
Shire of Dundas	3	4	1	5	2

Local Government	OPTIONS IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE				
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
Town of East Fremantle					1
Shire of Esperance	1	2	4	3	5
Shire of Exmouth	1				2
City of Fremantle	2	3	1	4	5
Shire of Gnowangerup	1	2	3	4	5
Shire of Goomalling			2		1
City of Gosnells	No preference				
City of Greater Geraldton		1	2		
Shire of Harvey	1				
Shire of Jerramungup	2				1
City of Kalamunda	4	3	2	1	5
City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder	1				
City of Karratha	No preference				
Shire of Kojonup	3	5	4	1	2
Shire of Kondinin	2		1		
Shire of Koorda	1	3	2	5	4
Shire of Kulin					1
City of Kwinana	4	2	3	1	5
Shire of Lake Grace	2				1
Shire of Laverton					1
Shire of Leonora	1	2	4	3	5
City of Mandurah	1	4	2	5	3
Shire of Manjimup					1
Shire of Meekatharra					1
City of Melville	No preference				
Shire of Menzies	1	2	4	3	5
Shire of Merredin	1				
Shire of Mingenew					1
Shire of Morawa					1
Town of Mosman Park	4	2	3	1	5
Shire of Mount Magnet					1
Shire of Mount Marshall	1	5	4	2	3
Shire of Mundaring	4	2	1	3	5
Shire of Murchison					1
Shire of Murray					1

Local Government	OPTIONS IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE				
	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4	Option 5
Shire of Nannup					1
Shire of Narembeen	3	4	2	5	1
Shire of Narrogin	1				2
City of Nedlands	3	4	1	5	2
Shire of Northam	3	1	4	2	5
Shire of Northampton					1
Shire of Nungarin	1		2		
Shire of Peppermint Grove	No preference				
Shire of Perenjori	1				1
Shire of Pingelly					1
Town of Port Hedland	1	2	3	4	5
City of Rockingham	1	3	4	5	2
Shire of Sandstone					1
Shire of Shark Bay	1	4	3	5	2
City of South Perth	No preference				
City of Stirling	No preference				
City of Subiaco	No preference				
City of Swan	4	1	2	5	3
Shire of Tammin	2	4	3	1	5
Shire of Toodyay	2	4	3	5	1
Shire of Trayning	1	4	2	3	5
Town of Victoria Park	1	3	2	4	5
Shire of Victoria Plains	1	4	3	5	2
City of Vincent				1	
Shire of Wagin					1
Shire of Wandering					1
Shire of Waroona	1				
Shire of West Arthur	2	4	3	5	1
Shire of Westonia					1
Shire of Wickpin	1				
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley	4	2	1	3	5
Shire of Yalgoo	2				1
Shire of Yilgarn	1				2
Shire of York	2				1

10.8 Australian Local Government Association - 2023 National General Assembly - Sustainable Disaster Risk Grant Funding Model

File Code	OR.IGR 3 and GS.STA 5.01
Author	Adrian Dyson, Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management
Senior Employee	Mark Luzi, Director Statutory Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	Nil

SUMMARY

This report recommends that Council submits a motion to the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) National General Assembly (NGA) to be held in Canberra on 13-16 June 2023.

The motion is as follows:

“This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently provide a Sustainable Grant Funding Model that enables local governments to deliver on their shared responsibility for disaster risk reduction, resilience and recovery. The Sustainable Grant Funding Model should be supported by a network of grants officers located in each State Local Government Association to facilitate the development of strategically aligned projects and successful grant applications.”

BACKGROUND

ALGA represents 537 local governments (councils) across the country. ALGA convenes the NGA annually, providing an opportunity for local government to engage directly with the Australian Government, to develop national policy and to influence the future direction of councils and communities.

The NGA will be held from 13 – 16 June 2023 in Canberra. Local governments can submit motions to be considered at the NGA. Motions must be submitted by Friday 24 March 2023 and are required to be endorsed by the local government submitting the Motion. ALGA has also advised that motions can be provided in tentative drafts, pending formal Council consideration. A draft motion has already been submitted to this end given the Council meeting is to be held after 24 March. It is open to Council to withdraw and/or amend the draft motion should it so determine.

WALGA requested the Shire give consideration to submitting the motion to the NGA and to speak in support of the motion in the knowledge that Deputy Shire President, Cr McNeil is attending the 2023 NGA representing Shire of Mundaring and will be able to move the motion if it is supported by Council.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 1 - Community

Objective 1.1 – Healthy, safe, sustainable and resilient community

Strategy 1.1.7 – Provide emergency management planning, disaster management and disaster recovery, and associated community liaison and education

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The draft motion calls on the Australian Government to provide a sustainable disaster risk reduction grant funding model.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Reputation: If the Shire fails to take an opportunity to address disaster risk funding program issues or difficulties with Local Government peers and the Federal Government there is a potential reputational risk.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Minor	Moderate
Action / Strategy		
This risk would be mitigated by Shire of Mundaring moving the Draft Motion at the Australian Local Government Association 2023 National General Assembly.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

Shire of Mundaring has significant capacity and capability in emergency management and disaster risk reduction noting the risk profile of the Shire district, for example the extensive portion of the Shire district that is classified as bushfire prone.

To ensure that the Shire's disaster risk programs and activities are able to continuously improve and thus continue to meet community needs it is imperative that grant funding be sought and obtained wherever possible.

The Australian Government, through the National Emergency Management Agency, also provides grant funding through the National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) program, the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and the newly established Disaster Ready Fund (DRF). However, Shire of Mundaring, as with other local governments in Western Australia, experiences a range of challenges in accessing federal government funds to support their emergency management, including:

- Limited capacity to complete the amount of work required to prepare a project for an application.
- Issues with the timing and communication of grant rounds and how this matches internal timelines for approval and budgets.

- Mismatch between local priorities / needs and grant eligibility criteria, including the need for increased funding for the replacement or restoration of damaged assets to a more resilient standard following an event.
- Competition with State level projects, which may be prioritised as more strategic.
- No processes to coordinate similar applications across a range of local governments.
- Difficulties meeting co-contribution requirements, particularly for smaller and regional local governments.

As set out in WALGA’s Emergency Management Advocacy Position 8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management, a Sustainable Grants Funding model would enable local governments to:

- undertake proactive approaches to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;
- supports the resilience of local communities through capacity-building activities and programs;
- be responsive to the variations in local government resourcing and context;
- develops the skills, capacity and capability of the emergency management workforce; and
- would be consistent, flexible, timely, accessible, scalable, strategic and be underpinned by comprehensive guidance and support.

A Grants officer located in each State Local Government Association would enable local governments to develop strategically aligned projects, projects that meet the needs of a number of local governments, and help local governments to prepare successful applications.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION		C13.04.23	
RECOMMENDATION			
Moved by	Cr Cook	Seconded by	Cr Daw

That Council submits the following motion to the Australian Local Government Association’s National General Assembly to be held in Canberra on 13-16 June 2023:

“This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently provide a Sustainable Grant Funding Model that enables local governments to deliver on their shared responsibility for disaster risk reduction, resilience and recovery. The Sustainable Grant Funding Model should be supported by a network of grants officers located in each State Local Government Association to facilitate the development of strategically aligned projects and successful grant applications.”

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

10.9 Australian Local Government Association - 2023 National General Assembly - Australian Government Investment in FOGO Processing Infrastructure

File Code	OR.IGR 3 and WM.SER 02.01
Author	Clinton Kleynhans, Manager Operations Services
Senior Employee	Shane Purdy, Director Infrastructure Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	1. Draft Motion - Town of Bassendean ↓

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider its support for a draft motion to be presented to the 2023 National General Assembly (NGA) of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), which will be held from 13 – 16 June 2023 in Canberra.

The draft motion to be put forward as proposed by Mayor Kath Hamilton, of the Town of Bassendean, is:

“This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commit to appropriate funding mechanisms for the establishment of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) processing facilities, nationally; as an undertaking to co-partner with local governments and their regional associations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, closing the loop on a priority waste stream and progressing healthy soils initiatives.”

Associated supporting information to the motion can be found in **Attachment 1**.

BACKGROUND

ALGA represents 537 councils across the country. ALGA convenes the NGA annually, providing an opportunity for Local Government to engage directly with the Australian Government, to develop national policy and to influence the future direction of councils and communities.

The NGA will be held from 13 – 16 June 2023 in Canberra. Local Governments can submit motions to be considered at the NGA. Motions must be submitted by Friday 24 March 2023 and are required to be endorsed by the Local Government submitting the Motion. ALGA has also advised that motions can be provided in tentative drafts, pending formal Council consideration.

ALGA has developed a Discussion Paper for the 2023 NGA, to guide councils considering submitting motions (**Attachment 1**). This includes amended criteria for 2023, with a view to improving the quality and relevance of motions included in the Business Papers.

A notice of motion to this year’s NGA is required to either:

- Focus on practical and deliverable programs and policies that the Australian Government can support and work directly with the local government sector to build communities; or

- New program ideas that would help the local government sector to deliver national objectives.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and subsequent debate on the floor of the NGA, motions must meet the following criteria:

1. Be relevant to the work of local government nationally.
2. Not be focused on a specific jurisdiction, location or region – unless the project or issue has national implications.
3. Be consistent with the themes of the NGA.
4. Complement or build on the policy objectives of ALGA and your state or territory local government association.
5. Be submitted by a council which is a financial member of their state or territory local government association.
6. Propose a clear action and outcome ie call on the Australian Government to act on something.
7. Not be advanced on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members, or to gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.
8. Address issues that will directly improve the capacity of local government to deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of all Australian communities.
9. Not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
10. Be supported by sufficient evidence to support the outcome being sought and demonstrate the relevance and significance of the matter to local government nationally.

This year's call for motions focuses on eight priority areas:

- Productivity;
- Local Government Infrastructure;
- Community Wellbeing;
- Local Government Workforce;
- Data, Digital Technology and Cyber Security;
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy;
- Natural Disasters;
- Housing.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

In March 2021 Council adopted (C13.03.21) a Waste Plan pursuant to Section 40(4) of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 (WARR Act). The construction of FOGO facilities in Perth and Australia is important to enabling disposal of FOGO material being an action of the Shire's Waste Strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 2 - Natural Environment

Objective 2.3 – Waste management that is efficient and sustainable

Strategy 2.3.2 – Increase recycling rates and diversion from landfill

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Seeking financial assistance from the Federal Government, will support local governments to transition to net zero emissions and meet its waste plan targets. This collaboration will deliver economic and environmental benefits.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Reputation: Should Council decide not to show support to the motion being presented, it would be contrary to its commitment within informing Strategic Plans.

Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Unlikely	Moderate	Moderate

Action / Strategy

Council to formalise their support of the motion as stated in the recommendation of this report.

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

The Town of Bassendean, in discussion with Shire of Mundaring and Cities of Bayswater, Kalamunda and Swan (being the other member councils of the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council), are seeking support from these local governments to either (i) progress the same motion in their own right or (ii) formally support the Town of Bassendean's motion.

COMMENT

Local governments are at the forefront of the push to reduce waste disposed of to landfill and increasing the recovery of organic waste. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) accounts for one third of the total waste stream and FOGO accounts for approximately 50% of MSW. If Australia is to meet its national targets and increase circularity, it will be imperative that FOGO material is diverted from landfill and processed for use as soil conditioner/compost.

The State's Waste Strategy aims to make WA a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste. The State Waste Strategy landfill reduction targets are 67% by 2025 and 70% by 2030.

The primary actions that the Shire has included in its adopted Waste Plan are aimed at bettering these waste diversion targets by implementing a FOGO third bin system for residents and diverting residual waste from landfill to a waste to energy plant.

Many local governments have announced plans to introduce a third bin for the collection of FOGO. However, many of these local governments have had difficulty in finding suitable processing facilities to accept the quantity of material required. The recent failed tender by EMRC showed how expensive FOGO facilities can be to construct.

Critical to constructing a FOGO facility is funding support, without significant funding from the federal and state Governments, local government and private investors are unlikely to be able to fully finance FOGO processing facilities. Facilities funded by local governments are also unlikely to include recovery of energy as the capital outlay to include these systems may be problematic. Funding from the Australian Government will make it more likely that FOGO processing facilities will include energy recovery.

The energy produced from more advanced FOGO processing facilities can assist in Australia's transition from energy generated from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy. FOGO processing facilities can generate clean renewable energy while producing compost and/or soil improver.

Australia has some of the poorest soils globally with low levels of stored carbon. Compost from FOGO facilities can be applied to Australian sands to convert them into soils. This will increase crop yields and reduce reliance on mined and imported fertilisers.

By closing the loop and applying FOGO products to farming land, there will be an increase the circularity of food production systems. Food will be grown from FOGO derived products, sold to consumers, eaten or disposed on into FOGO systems, then processed into FOGO derived products and then applied to land used to grow food thereby closing the loop.

Officers have reviewed the draft motion and agree with its intended purpose and alignment with the Shire of Mundaring's Waste Plan. To strengthen the motion to be presented by Town of Bassendean, and in line with other Councils of the EMRC, it is recommended Council formally supports the motion.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION RECOMMENDATION	C14.04.23		
Moved by	Cr Jeans	Seconded by	Cr Daw

That Council supports the following motion to be submitted by the Town of Bassendean to the Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly, to be held from 13 – 16 June 2023 in Canberra:

“This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commit to appropriate funding mechanisms for the establishment of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) processing facilities, nationally; as an undertaking to co-partner with local governments and their regional associations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, closing the loop on a priority waste stream and progressing healthy soils initiatives.”

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

2023 National General Assembly Draft Motion
Australian Government investment in Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) processing infrastructure

MOTION

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to commit to appropriate funding mechanisms for the establishment of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) processing facilities, nationally; as an undertaking to co-partner with local governments and their regional associations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills, closing the loop on a priority waste stream and progressing healthy soils initiatives.

National Objective

Why is this a national issue and why should this be debated at the NGA? (max 200 words)

This motion aligns with the NGA's 6th priority area "Climate Change and Renewable Energy" and in particular 'lowering carbon emissions and responding creatively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills'.

The lack of FOGO processing capabilities across the nation is a significant concern as the various states and local governments attempt to reduce methane emissions by diverting organic waste from landfill. Source separation and recycling of household organic waste aligns with Commonwealth, State and Local Government strategies for waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The development of circular economy processes adds real value to local communities via the production of new circular materials, job creation and economic development.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) accounts for one third of the total waste stream and FOGO accounts for approximately 50% of MSW. Lack of FOGO processing infrastructure is a serious impediment to achieving state and national net zero emission targets. Many local governments lack the resources to underwrite the establishment of new FOGO processing infrastructure, upgrade existing GO facilities or to expand existing processing infrastructure to receive increasing volumes of FOGO material. This fact is a significant impediment to the adoption of FOGO programs at a local level.

Summary of Key Arguments

Background information and supporting arguments (max 500 words)

FOGO is the single biggest high impact emissions mitigation action currently available at a household level. FOGO processing is a joint responsibility of local, state and federal government, with local government's role as community implementor and catalyst and state/federal government joint role as policy makers, funders and change-makers.

There is a lack of adequate FOGO processing infrastructure across the nation, to receive the expected volumes of FOGO material once all local governments have introduced a third bin (FOGO bin). FOGO is food organics and garden organics collected from households, which have been separated at the source, to reduce contamination.

FOGO is screened, composted and combined with other organic materials to produce a range of Australian Standard Soil Conditioners and Mulch products with the products used in a range of applications from urban amenity to agriculture.

Establishing FOGO processing facilities will result in the production of composted soil conditioner that can be incorporated into topsoil to improve growing properties; and

composted mulch to be applied to the soil surface to protect topsoil, retain moisture, prevent runoff, suppress weeds.

Environmental benefits include:

- Greenhouse gas savings equivalent to 0.22 Tco2-e per household pa. as a result of diverting FOGO from landfill
- Building soil health and biodiversity
- Improving soil water retention
- Reducing reliance on synthetic fertilisers
- Using material close to the source to reduce transport emissions
- Returning organic matter to the carbon deficient soils
- Achieving net zero targets, nationally

Key facts about FOGO processing:

- FOGO derived products are processed to meet Australian Standards AS 4454 for composts, soil conditioners and mulches or AS 4419 for topsoils.
- The FOGO process removes physical contamination, and pasteurisation eliminates pathogens and weed seed propagation.
- Certified fit for purpose FOGO product can be used in major infrastructure projects, used to improve soil health in the agriculture sector and used in landscaping and garden applications, including households.

Investing in FOGO processing facilities will result in:

- Reducing carbon emissions generated from organics decaying in landfill
- Regional prosperity through enduring jobs and growth (National Taskforce extra 6 jobs per 10kT of material)
- Achieving a typical overall recovery rate of 67% with a 3-bin FOGO system where 95% of the FOGO material is diverted from landfill (an average of 300kg per household per annum)
- Delivering state and federal government targets for Carbon Emissions Reduction and the National Healthy Soils Strategy

The business case for FOGO processing facility investment in Australia is compelling and, with assistance from the Federal Government, will support local governments to transition to net zero emissions by 2050. Such collaboration will deliver economic and environmental benefits for the nation.

10.10 Statement of Financial Activity for period ended 28 February 2023

File Code	F1.RPT2
Author	Stan Kocian, Manager Finance and Governance
Senior Employee	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	1. Statement of Financial Activity for period ended 28 February 2023 ↓

SUMMARY

The monthly Statement of Financial Activity discloses the Shire's financial activities for the period ending 28 February 2023.

The actual closing budget position as at 28 February 2023 was a surplus of \$19,285,773 compared to a budgeted year to date surplus to the end of February of \$16,356,817. The budgeted year end surplus is \$716,003 as per the original budget adopted by Council (SC6.07.22). The mid-year budget review updated the forecast closing year end budget surplus to \$3,887,230 (C12.03.23).

BACKGROUND

The monthly financial report is presented in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

A statement of financial activity and any accompanying documents are to be presented to the Council at an ordinary meeting of the Council within two months after the end of the month to which the statement relates. The Statement of Financial Activity Report summarises the Shire's financial activities.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Regulation 34(1) of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* requires a local government to prepare each month a statement of financial activity.

Regulation 34(2) requires the statement of financial activity to report on the sources and applications of funds, as set out in the annual budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications are in accordance with the approved reporting material variances (C18.08.22) of:

- (+) or (-) \$50,000 or 10%, whichever is the greater for Revenue
- (+) or (-) \$100,000 or 10%, whichever is the greater for Expenses

within the monthly Statement of Financial Activity during the 2022/23 financial year.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 4 - Governance

Objective 4.4 – High standard of governance and accountability

Strategy 4.4.6 – Sound financial and asset management

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Financial performance is not monitored against approved budget.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Minor	Moderate
Action / Strategy		
The monthly financial report tracks the Shire's actual financial performance against its budgeted financial performance to ensure that the Council is able to monitor to Shire's financial performance throughout the financial year.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

The reports that accompany this item are as follows:

- A graphical representation of the year to date comparison to budget for operating revenue, operating expenses and capital expenses;
- Statement of Financial Activity (based on the Rate Setting Statement adopted in the annual budget) for the period ending 28 February 2023;
- An explanation of the material variances in the Statement of Financial Activity;
- The closing budget position for the period ending 28 February 2023 and comparison to the year to date budget and same period last year;
- An explanation of the key terms and definitions used in the Statement of Financial Activity;
- The closing budget position for the period ending 28 February and comparison to the year to date budget and same period last year;
- A statement of year to date operating expenses by each area of budget responsibility and a graphical comparison of year to date operating expense to the year to date budget; and
- Summary of Cash Investments with financial institutions as at 28 February.

In relation to the material variances, "timing" differences are due to the monthly spread of the budget not matching the actual spread of revenue or expenditure. Timing differences will not result in a forecast adjustment. Where the material variance is flagged as "permanent" this indicates that a forecast adjustment to the annual budget is required or has been made.

The Shire’s closing surplus as at 28 February 2023 was \$19,285,773 compared to a year to date budgeted surplus of \$16,356,817. This variation is primarily due to:

1. The Shire’s forecast opening budget surplus in the adopted budget was \$4,024,176 compared to an actual opening surplus position of \$7,692,098. This is primarily due to the net capital expenditure amount forecast for 2021/22 in the 2022/23 budget being \$3.6 million less than the actual result for 2021/22. This relates to incomplete capital works/purchases for 2021/22 that have now been carried forward to 2022/23. As these items had not been included in the 2022/23 budget they were subject to a forecast adjustment in the mid-year budget review;
2. The Shire’s year to date actual operating expenses being \$57,160 less than the year to date budget (see explanation of variances);
3. The Shire’s year to date actual operating revenue being \$85,635 less than the year to date budget (see explanation of variances);
4. The Shire’s net expenditure on investing activities (Capital works and funding of) being \$2,181,457 greater than the year to date budget (see explanation of variances); and
5. The Shire’s net expenditure on financing activities (Transfers to/from reserves and repayment of loans) being \$587,578 less than the year to date budget (see explanation of variances).

The Shire’s total municipal cash (cash available for operations) as at 28 February 2023 was \$16,990,147 in municipal funds compared \$16,632,728 at the same time last year.

Outstanding rates and waste charges as at 28 February was \$10,498,000 (24.9% of collectable rates and charges) compared to a figure of \$7,682,333 (19.4%) at the same time last year. There is a lag of more than a month in the comparison of the collection rates between this and last financial year. The due date for the payment of the third instalment for rates and waste charges was 17 February 2023, which is more than a month later than the due date of 10 January last year.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION		C15.04.23	
RECOMMENDATION			
Moved by	Cr Beale	Seconded by	Cr Zlatnik

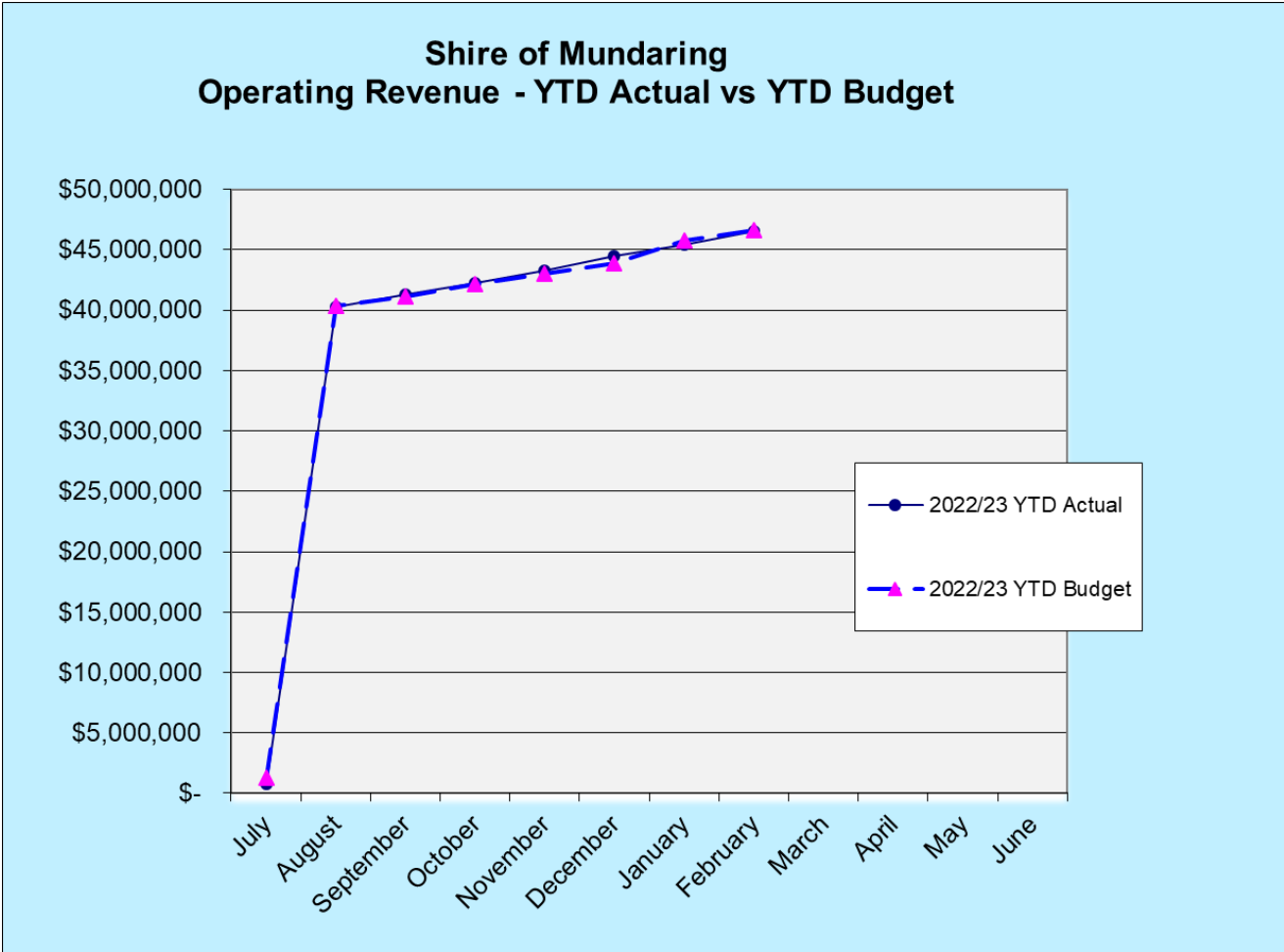
That Council notes:

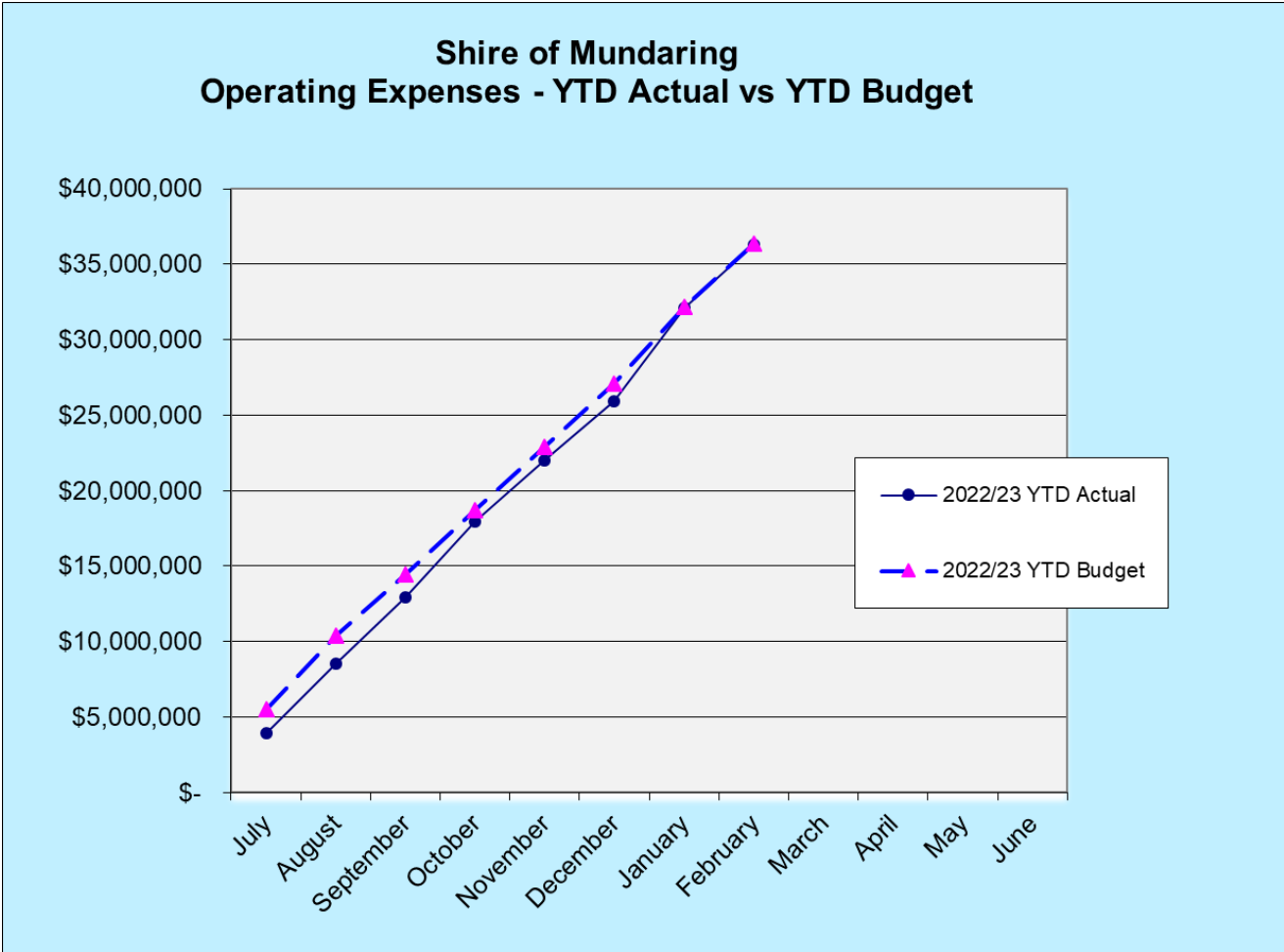
1. the closing position of the Shire for the period ending 28 February 2023 is a surplus of \$19,285,773 compared to the year to date budgeted surplus of \$16,356,817; and
2. the explanation of material variances in the Statement of Financial Activity contained in **Attachment 1**.

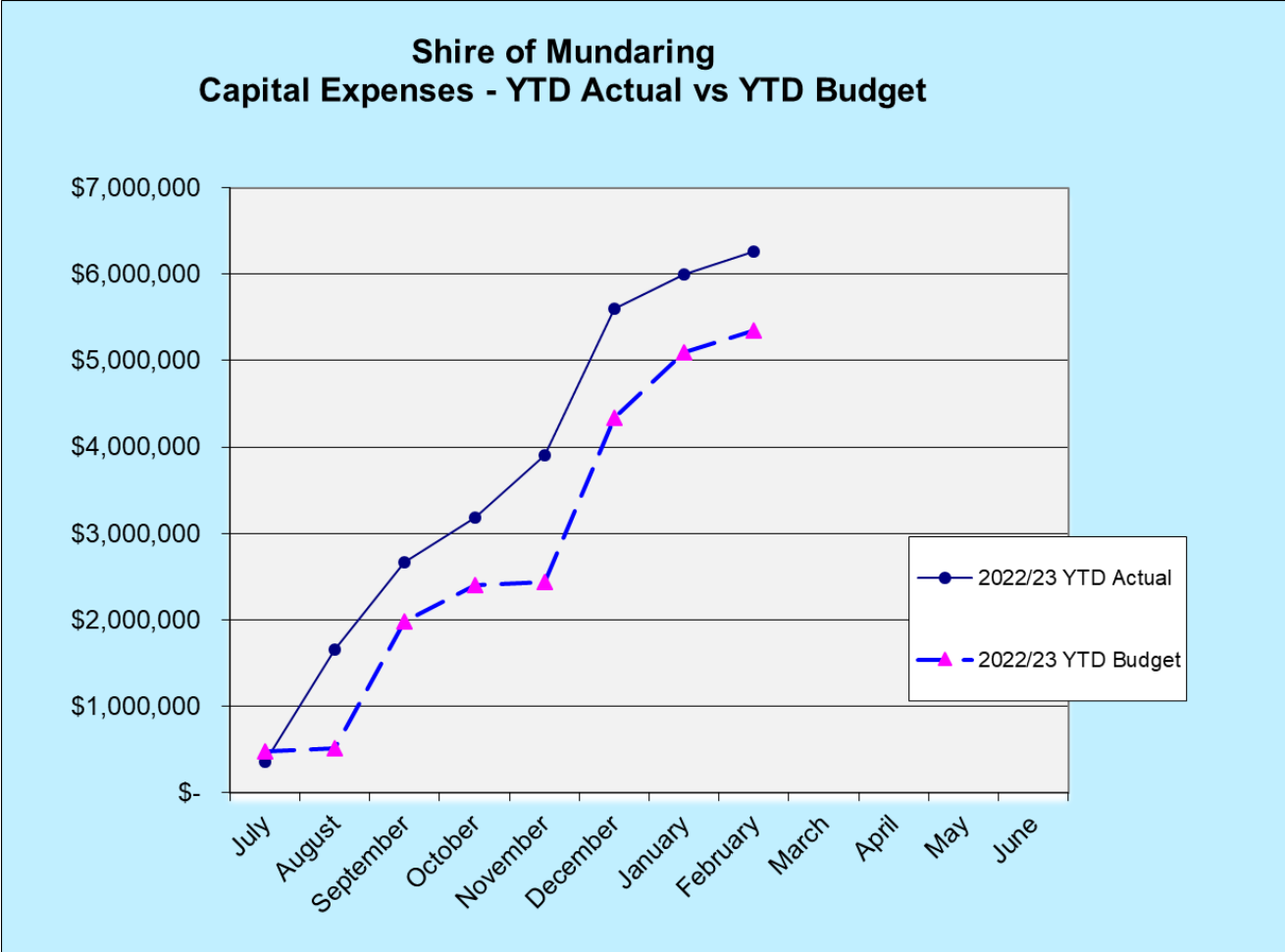
CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil







Shire of Mundaring
Statement of Financial Activity
for period ending 28 February 2023

	2022/23 YTD Budget	2022/23 YTD Actuals	2022/23 BUDGET	2022/23 REVISED FORECAST	YTD Variance	YTD Variance
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Net current assets at start of financial year - surplus/(deficit)	4,024,176	7,692,098	4,024,176	7,692,098	3,667,922	91.1%
Revenue from operating activities						
Rates	31,201,528	31,177,931	31,251,611	31,251,611	(23,597)	-0.1%
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions	2,927,116	3,342,402	4,059,267	4,597,551	415,286	14.2%
Fees and charges	10,270,292	10,662,416	11,901,137	11,783,637	392,124	3.8%
Interest earnings	689,992	391,229	1,035,000	1,035,000	(298,763)	-43.3%
Other revenue	926,602	984,050	1,373,039	1,392,739	57,448	6.2%
Profit on asset disposals	630,700	2,568	660,900	660,900	(628,132)	-99.6%
	46,646,230	46,560,595	50,280,954	50,721,438	(85,635)	-0.2%
Expenditure from operating activities						
Employee costs	(15,168,259)	(14,593,258)	(21,942,259)	(21,711,527)	575,001	-3.8%
Materials and contracts	(13,752,527)	(14,276,668)	(23,983,794)	(23,858,772)	(524,141)	3.8%
Utility charges	(946,336)	(824,934)	(1,427,097)	(1,414,097)	121,402	-12.8%
Depreciation on non-current assets	(5,004,496)	(5,186,543)	(7,676,042)	(7,813,239)	(182,047)	3.6%
Interest expenses	(244,784)	(218,606)	(383,818)	(383,818)	26,178	-10.7%
Insurance expenses	(601,043)	(590,087)	(601,071)	(590,187)	10,956	-1.8%
Other expenditure	(650,763)	(620,952)	(881,872)	(828,198)	29,811	-4.6%
Loss on asset disposals	-	-	(49,500)	(49,500)	-	0.0%
Total	(36,368,208)	(36,311,048)	(56,945,453)	(56,649,338)	57,160	0.2%
Non-cash amounts excluded from operating activities						
Depreciation on Assets	5,004,496	5,186,543	7,676,042	7,813,239	182,047	-3.6%
(Profit)/Loss on Disposal of Assets	(630,700)	(2,568)	(611,400)	(611,400)	628,132	100.0%
Deferred Rates Adjustment	-	73,210	-	61,714	73,210	100.0%
Movement Non-Current Assets	-	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Movement Non-Current Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Amount attributable to operating activities	14,651,818	15,506,732	400,143	1,335,653	854,914	5.8%
INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
Non-operating grants, subsidies and contributions	3,146,261	3,023,179	9,945,277	10,365,224	(123,082)	-3.9%
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(1,772,836)	(1,701,008)	(4,320,275)	(6,215,840)	71,828	-4.1%
Payments for construction of infrastructure	(3,571,596)	(4,566,671)	(11,750,349)	(13,673,230)	(995,075)	27.9%
Proceeds from disposal of assets	1,161,900	26,773	1,526,400	2,041,398	(1,135,127)	100.0%
Amount attributable to investing activities	(1,036,271)	(3,217,728)	(4,598,947)	(7,482,448)	(2,181,457)	210.5%
FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
Repayment of borrowings	(490,328)	(424,616)	(735,494)	(735,494)	65,712	-13.4%
Principal elements of finance lease payments	-	-	(145,497)	(145,497)	-	0.0%
Transfers to cash backed reserves	(1,363,328)	(270,712)	(3,678,968)	(3,945,968)	1,092,616	-80.1%
Transfers from cash backed reserves	570,750	-	5,450,590	7,168,887	(570,750)	-100.0%
Amount attributable to financing activities	(1,282,906)	(695,328)	890,631	2,341,928	587,578	45.8%
Net current assets at end of financial period - surplus/(deficit)	16,356,817	19,285,773	716,003	3,887,230	2,928,956	17.9%

Explanation of Material Variances				
The material variance thresholds are adopted annually by Council as an indicator of whether the actual expenditure or revenue varies from the year to date budget materially.				
The material variance for revenue adopted by Council for the 2022/23 year is \$50,000 or 10% whichever is the greater.				
The material variance for expenses adopted by Council for the 2022/23 year is \$100,000 or 10% whichever is the greater.				
Reporting Program	Var. \$	Var. %	Timing/ Permanent	Explanation of Variance
Revenue from operating activities				
Rates	(23,597)	0%		Within variance threshold.
Operating grants, subsidies and contributions	415,286	14%	Permanent	DFES Fire Mitigation Grant \$250,000 not included in Budget - adjusted in Mid-Year Budget Review. Children Services grant instalment of \$125,000 budgeted for June. General Purpose and Local Road Grants greater than Budget.
Fees and charges	392,124	4%	Timing	Children services income \$197,423 greater than YTD Budget. Bilgoman pool income \$101,419 greater than YTD Budget. Dog registration fees \$90,601 greater than YTD Budget; total budget inadvertently allocated to June.
Interest earnings	(298,763)	-43%	Timing	Timing of interest earned on term deposits and impact of reversal of interest accrued as at 30 June 2022.
Other revenue	57,448	6%		Within variance threshold.
Profit on asset disposals	(628,132)	-100%	Timing	Sale of Scott Street Property has not occurred as yet. Timing of replacement of plant and vehicles and disposal of plant being replaced.
Expenditure from operating activities				
Employee costs	575,001	-4%	Permanent	Impact of reversal of salaries and wages accrued as at 30 June 2022 (\$478,198). Staff vacancies YTD have also had an impact - forecast reduced in Mid-Year Budget Review.
Materials and contracts	(524,141)	4%	Timing	Fire Control Hazard Abate expenditure \$280,741 greater than YTD Budget - adjusted in Mid-Year Budget Review. Refuse collection expenditure \$381,006 greater than YTD Budget.
Utility charges	121,402	-13%	Timing	Timing of utility bills.
Depreciation on non-current assets	(182,047)	4%		Within variance threshold, however there has been an adjustment made for depreciation on property, plant and equipment in the Mid-Year Budget Review.
Interest expenses	26,178	-11%	Timing	Relates to the timing of loans repayments; current month payment not due until 1st of following month.
Insurance expenses	10,956	-2%		Within variance threshold.
Other expenditure	29,811	-5%		Within variance threshold.
Loss on asset disposals	0	0%		Within variance threshold.

Operating activities excluded from rate setting				
Depreciation on Assets	182,047	-4%		Within variance threshold, however there has been an adjustment made for depreciation on property, plant and equipment in the Mid-Year Budget Review.
(Profit)/Loss on Disposal of Assets	628,132	100%	Timing	Timing of replacement of plant and vehicles and disposal of plant being replaced.
Deferred Rates Adjustment	73,210	100%	Permanent	Movement in deferred pensioner rates is not budgeted for.
Investing Activities				
Non-operating grants, subsidies and contributions	(123,082)	-4%	Timing	Relates to timing of receipt of capital grants.
Payments for property, plant and equipment	71,828	-4%	Timing	Variations across a number of assets.
Payments for construction of infrastructure	(995,075)	28%	Timing	Timing of infrastructure capital works. Variance impacted by unbudgeted capital works being carried over from 2021/22. As these items were not included in the 2022/23 budget, they were subject to forecast adjustments in the Mid-Year Budget Review, which were offset by the higher than forecast brought forward surplus.
Proceeds from disposal of assets	(1,135,127)	100%	Timing	Sale of Scott Street Property has not occurred as yet. Timing of replacement of plant and vehicles and disposal of plant being replaced.
Financing Activities				
Repayment of borrowings	65,712	-13%	Timing	Relates to the timing of loans repayments, current month payment not due until 1st of following month.
Principal elements of finance lease payments	0	0%		No variance. Subject to a year end adjustment journal.
Transfers to cash backed reserves	1,092,616	-80%	Timing	Majority of transfers to reserves to be processed as year end transactions. Scott Street has not been sold so no proceeds have been transferred to reserve. Only interest earned on reserves has been transferred thus far.
Transfers from cash backed reserves	(570,750)	-100%	Timing	No transfers from reserves required thus far.

KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS - NATURE OR TYPE

REVENUES

RATES

All rates levied under the *Local Government Act 1995*. Includes general, differential, specified area rates, minimum rates, interim rates, back rates, ex-gratia rates, less discounts and concessions offered. Exclude administration fees, interest on instalments, interest on arrears, service charges and sewerage rates.

SERVICE CHARGES

Service charges imposed under Division 6 of Part 6 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. Regulation 54 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* identifies these as television and radio broadcasting, underground electricity and neighbourhood surveillance services.

Excludes rubbish removal charges. Interest and other items of a similar nature received from bank and investment accounts, interest on rate instalments, interest on rate arrears and interest on debtors.

PROFIT ON ASSET DISPOSAL

Profit on the disposal of assets including gains on the disposal of long term investments. Losses are disclosed under the expenditure classifications.

OPERATING GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Refer to all amounts received as grants, subsidies and contributions that are not non-operating grants.

NON-OPERATING GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Amounts received specifically for the acquisition, construction of new or the upgrading of non-current assets paid to a local government, irrespective of whether these amounts are received as capital grants, subsidies, contributions or donations.

FEES AND CHARGES

Revenue (other than service charges) from the use of facilities and charges made for local government services, sewerage rates, rentals, hire charges, fee for service, photocopying charges, licences, sale of goods or information, fines, penalties and administration fees. Local governments may wish to disclose more detail such as rubbish collection fees, rental of property, fines and penalties, other fees and charges.

INTEREST EARNINGS

Interest and other items of a similar nature received from bank and investment accounts, interest on rate instalments, interest on rate arrears and interest on debtors.

OTHER REVENUE / INCOME

Other revenue, which can not be classified under the above headings, includes dividends, discounts, and rebates. Reimbursements and recoveries should be separated by note to ensure the correct calculation of ratios.

EXPENSES

EMPLOYEE COSTS

All costs associated with the employment of person such as salaries, wages, allowances, benefits such as vehicle and housing, superannuation, employment expenses, removal expenses, relocation expenses, worker's compensation insurance, training costs, conferences safety expenses, medical examinations, fringe benefit tax, etc.

MATERIALS AND CONTRACTS

All expenditures on materials, supplies and contracts not classified under other headings. These include supply of goods and materials, legal expenses, consultancy, maintenance agreements, communication expenses, advertising expenses, membership, periodicals, publications, hire expenses, rental, leases, postage and freight etc. Local governments may wish to disclose more detail such as contract services, consultancy, information technology, rental or lease expenditures.

UTILITIES (GAS, ELECTRICITY, WATER, ETC.)

Expenditures made to the respective agencies for the provision of power, gas or water. Exclude expenditures incurred for the reinstatement of roadwork on behalf of these agencies.

INSURANCE

All insurance other than worker's compensation and health benefit insurance included as a cost of employment.

LOSS ON ASSET DISPOSAL

Loss on the disposal of fixed assets includes loss on disposal of long term investments.

DEPRECIATION ON NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Depreciation and amortisation expense raised on all classes of assets.

INTEREST EXPENSES

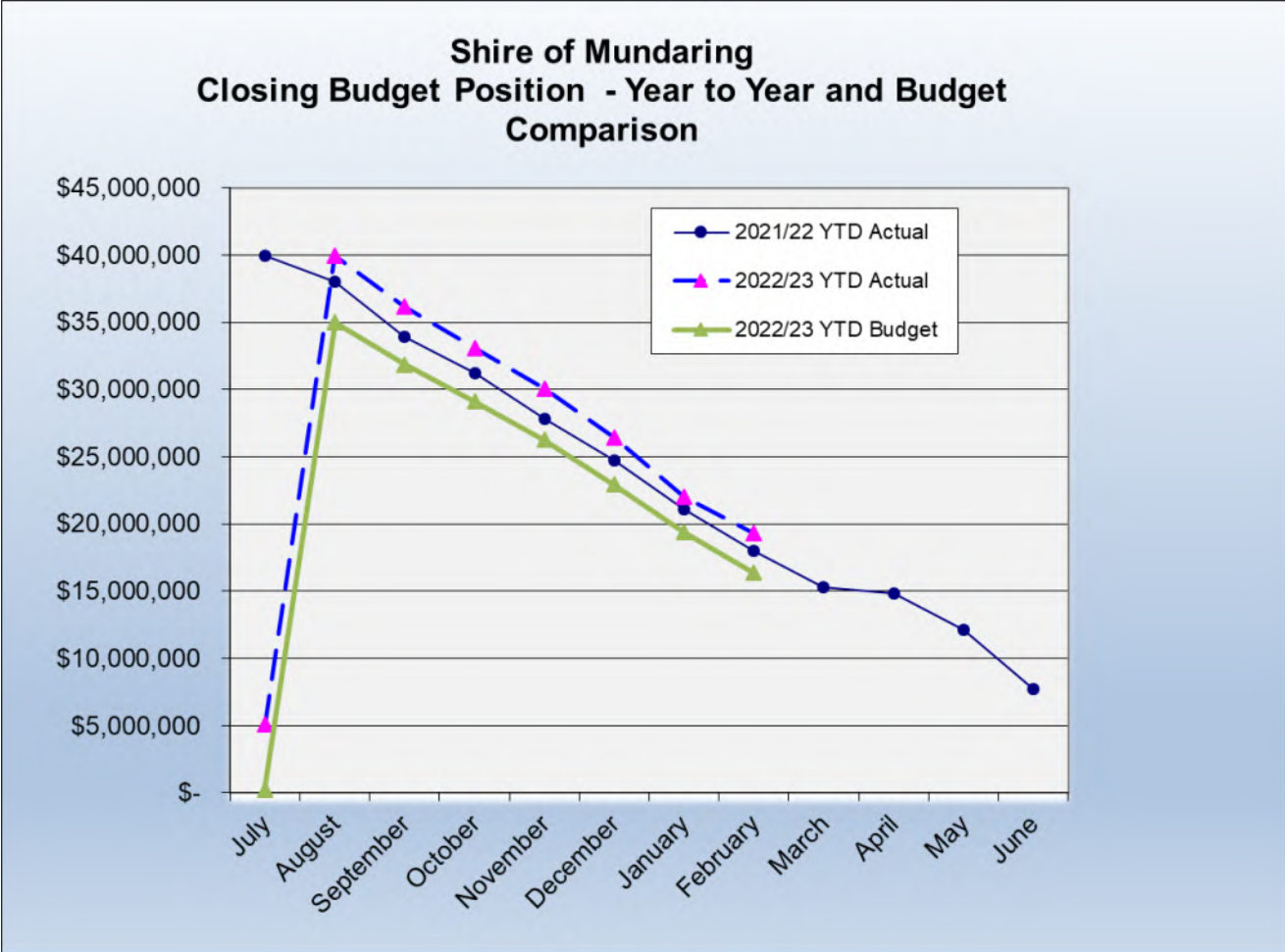
Interest and other costs of finance paid, including costs of finance for loan debentures, overdraft accommodation and refinancing expenses.

OTHER EXPENDITURE

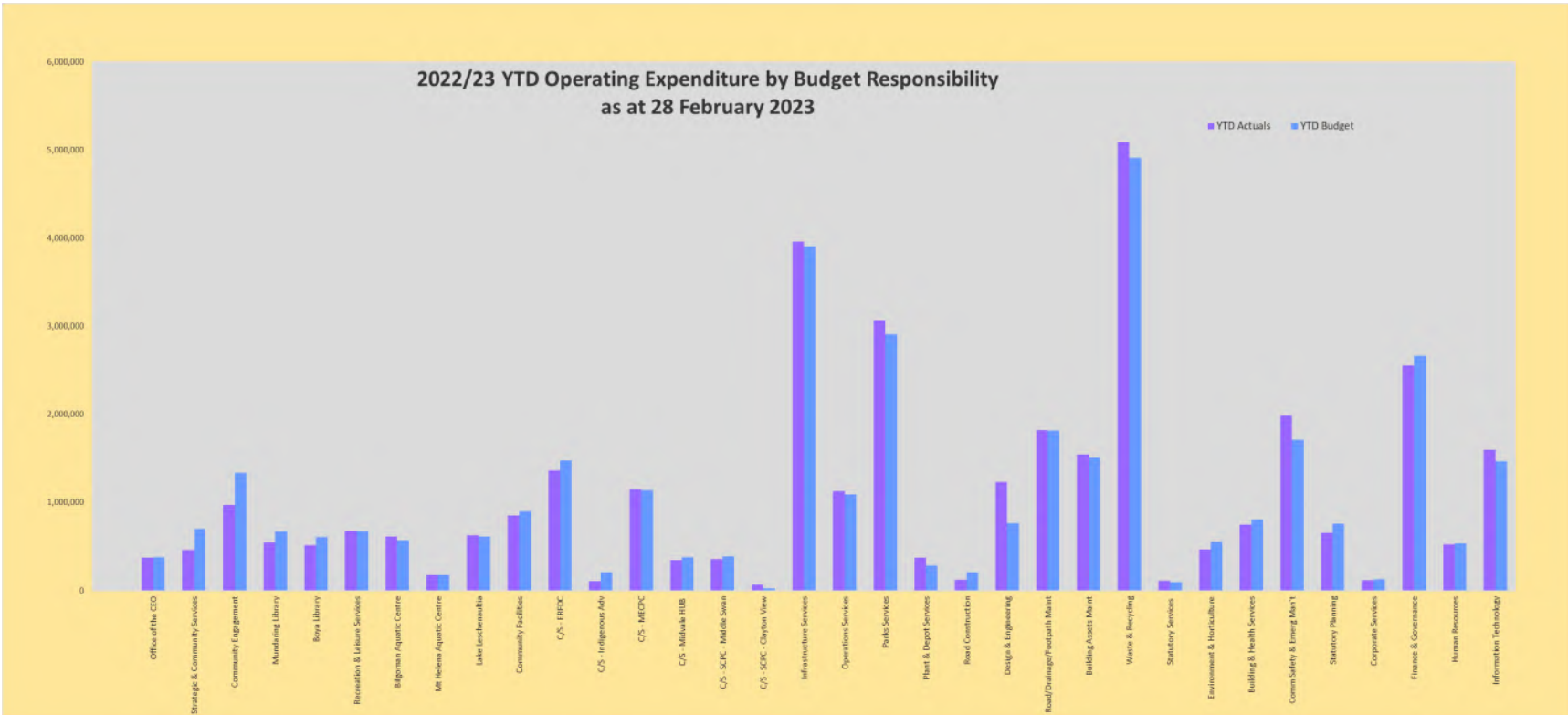
Statutory fees, taxes, provision for bad debts, member's fees or State taxes. Donations and subsidies made to community groups.

NET CURRENT ASSETS - BUDGET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

	Actual 28 February 2022	Actual 28 February 2023
CURRENT ASSETS		
Rates & Sanitation Debtors	7,682,333	10,498,000
Debtors	969,580	836,748
TOTAL RECEIVABLES - CURRENT	8,651,913	11,334,748
STOCK ON HAND	118,001	99,394
CASH ASSETS		
Municipal	16,632,728	16,990,147
Restricted Cash	32,117,714	33,413,853
Total Bank Accounts	48,750,442	50,404,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	57,520,356	61,838,142
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors	(6,453,784)	(8,591,473)
Borrowings - Current Portion	(700,169)	(735,493)
Lease Liability - Current Portion	(66,701)	(156,853)
Provisions	(3,597,489)	(3,535,564)
	(10,818,143)	(13,019,383)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	46,702,213	48,818,759
Less Reserve Funds	(29,454,156)	(30,425,331)
Add Current Loan Liability	700,169	735,493
Add Current Lease Liability	66,701	156,853
CLOSING BUDGET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	18,014,927	19,285,773



YTD Operating Expenditure by Budget Responsibility		
for period ending 28 February 2023		
	2022/23	2022/23
	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget
Office of the CEO	372,592	379,420
Strategic & Community Services Directorate	459,353	701,274
Community Engagement	971,428	1,337,293
Mundaring Library	544,793	668,731
Boya Library	514,723	606,422
Recreation & Leisure Services	680,277	677,832
Bilgoman Aquatic Centre	610,532	570,664
Mt Helena Aquatic Centre	175,962	172,869
Lake Leschenaultia	629,934	611,424
Community Facilities	853,454	900,325
Children's Services - Eastern Region Family Day Care Scheme	1,361,825	1,474,733
Children's Services - Indigenous Advancement Strategy	105,304	208,210
Children's Services - Midvale Early Childhood & Parenting Centre	1,151,153	1,140,878
Children's Services - Midvale HUB Parenting Services	345,928	376,856
Children's Services - Swan Child and Parent Centre - Middle Swan	357,669	386,706
Children's Services - Swan Children and Family Centre - Clayton View	64,075	24,800
Infrastructure Services Directorate	3,958,753	3,911,065
Operations Services	1,126,876	1,091,960
Parks Services	3,068,162	2,906,890
Plant & Depot Services	371,823	285,898
Road Construction	123,198	204,664
Design & Engineering	1,233,024	763,858
Road/Drainage/Footpath Maintenance	1,819,538	1,815,920
Building Assets Maintenance	1,546,427	1,509,301
Waste & Recycling	5,092,742	4,912,070
Statutory Services Directorate	110,359	96,833
Environment & Horticulture	469,147	558,017
Statutory Building & Health Services	750,518	806,156
Community Safety & Emergency Management	1,989,494	1,711,991
Statutory Planning	656,356	759,470
Corporate Services Directorate	117,769	128,321
Finance & Governance (inc Elected Members Expenses)	2,556,749	2,663,447
Human Resources	524,428	534,827
Information Systems/Technology	1,596,681	1,469,083
Total	36,311,048	36,368,208
Totals from Statement of Financial Activity	(36,311,048)	(36,368,208)



SHIRE OF MUNDARING							
INVESTMENT SUMMARY as at 28 February 2023							
			Amount Invested	Interest Rate	Period of Investment	Investment Date	Maturity Date
MUNICIPAL FUNDS							
<i>Unrestricted Use Funds</i>							
1	Bendigo Investment Account (on Call)		7,344,717	3.35%	N/A	N/A	
132	Suncorp Bank		3,890,791	4.10%	150 days	28-Nov-22	27-Apr-23
153	Bendigo		2,048,355	3.95%	150 days	13-Dec-22	12-May-23
158	Suncorp Bank		4,000,000	3.86%	150 days	11-Oct-22	10-Mar-23
		Total	17,283,863				
RESTRICTED ASSET FUNDS							
<i>Restricted Use Funds</i>							
4	Bendigo Investment Account (on Call)		2,988,522	3.35%	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Total	2,988,522				
TOTAL MUNI INVESTMENTS			20,272,385				
RESERVE FUNDS							
2	Bendigo Investment Account (on Call)		3,825,478	3.35%	N/A	N/A	N/A
60A	Bendigo		3,619,421	3.10%	181 days	20-Dec-22	20-Jun-23
107	ANZ		2,562,982	0.25%	365 days	30-Apr-22	30-Apr-23
127	NAB		3,932,486	1.75%	363 days	8-Apr-22	06-Apr-23
128	Westpac		4,945,393	0.52%	365 days	22-Mar-22	22-Mar-23
145	NAB		2,539,572	3.61%	240 days	29-Aug-22	26-Apr-23
147	Westpac		5,000,000	3.35%	365 days	15-Sep-22	15-Sep-23
159	NAB		4,000,000	4.28%	300 days	25-Oct-22	21-Aug-23
TOTAL RESERVE INVESTMENTS			30,425,331				
TOTAL MUNI / RESERVE INVESTMENTS			50,697,717				
TRUST FUNDS							
<i>PQS Funds</i>							
3	Bendigo Investment Account (on Call)		2,556,434	3.35%	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL TRUST INVESTMENTS			2,556,434				

10.11 List of Payments for February 2023

File Code	Fi.RPT 1
Author	Stan Kocian, Manager Finance and Governance
Senior Employee	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	1. Payment Between Meetings - February 2023 ↓

SUMMARY

A list of accounts paid from the Municipal Fund and Trust Fund under the Chief Executive Officer's delegated authority for the month of February 2023 is presented to Council for noting.

BACKGROUND

Council has delegated to the Chief Executive Officer the exercise of its power to make payments from the Shire's Municipal and Trust Funds. In accordance with Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*, a list of accounts paid is to be presented to Council and be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the list was presented.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Regulation 13 of the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* states:

- (1) *If the local government has delegated to the CEO the exercise of its power to make payments from the municipal fund or the trust fund, a list of accounts paid by the CEO is to be prepared each month showing for each account paid since the last such list was prepared –*
 - (a) *the payee's name;*
 - (b) *the amount of the payment;*
 - (c) *the date of the payment; and*
 - (d) *sufficient information to identify the transaction*
- (2) *A list prepared under sub regulation (1) or (2) is to be –*
 - (a) *presented to council at the next ordinary meeting of the council after the list is prepared; and*
 - (b) *recorded in the minutes of that meeting*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

AS-04 Purchasing Policy

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

All payments have been made in accordance with the approved budget and reflects the effective and timely payment of the Shire's contractors and other creditors.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 4 - Governance

Objective 4.4 – High standard of governance and accountability

Strategy 4.4.8 – Compliance with the Local Government Act 1995 and all relevant legislation and regulations

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Expenditure has been incurred in accordance with budget parameters, which have been structured on financial viability and sustainability principles.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Payments are not monitored against approved budget and delegation.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Minor	Moderate
Action / Strategy		
The monthly list of payments provides an open and transparent record of payments made under the CEO's approved delegation.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

Payments for the supply of goods and services utilised by the Shire's Family and Children Services programs are fully funded by government grants/subsidies and user fees.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION RECOMMENDATION	C16.04.23
Moved by Cr Ellery Seconded by Cr Beale	

That Council notes the list of payments made during February 2023 (**Attachment 1**).

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

PAYMENTS BETWEEN MEETINGS

The schedule of accounts paid for the month of February 2023 totals \$ **4,128,364.77**

and includes:

- Municipal Cheques 200583 - 200589 and
- Electronic Funds Transfers.

Schedule of Accounts:

	Amounts	Total
	\$	\$
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT		
MUNICIPAL CHEQUE PAYMENTS	2,803.50	
EFT PAYMENTS	2,874,442.07	
EFT PAYROLL PAYMENTS	1,100,365.13	
NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK (NAB PURCHASE CARD)	18,319.37	
FLEETCARE FUEL PAYMENTS	4,823.26	
BENDIGO MERCHANT BANK FEES	3,727.72	
BENDIGO DIRECT DEBIT FEES (incl. FTS)	531.38	
HP FINANCIAL SERVICES - EQUIPMENT LEASE	22,531.94	
COMMONWEALTH BANK – BPOINT FEES	2,405.40	
KONICA MINOLTA – PRINTER LEASE	4,329.72	
WA TREASURY CORPORATION	91,888.80	
RMS – LAKES MONTHLY LICENCE FEE	188.10	
RMS – MONTHLY SMS FEES	35.96	
QIKKIDS – FEES	62.96	
WEX MOTORPASS	346.18	
DEBITSUCCESS	311.83	
WINDCAVE – MERCHANT FEES	194.15	
ICMSFE	1,057.30	
TOTAL MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT		4,128,364.77
TRUST ACCOUNT		0.00
TOTAL ALL SCHEDULES		4,128,364.77

MONTHLY LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID
FEBRUARY 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cheque Details					
06/02/2023	00200583	Department of Transport Licensing &	VEHICLE NUMBER PLATE		\$ 200.00
01/02/2023	SP SERIES		VEHICLE NUMBER PLATE - 243MDG	\$ 200.00	
06/02/2023	00200584	Shire of Mundaring	PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 901.35
03/02/2023	PETTY CASH		PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT - LAKE LESCHENAULTIA	\$ 191.65	
03/02/2023	PETTY CASH		PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT - ADMIN	\$ 709.70	
13/02/2023	00200585	Department of Transport Licensing &	VEHICLE NUMBER PLATE		\$ 200.00
09/02/2023	SP SERIES		VEHICLE NUMBER PLATE - 633MDG	\$ 200.00	
13/02/2023	00200586	Shire of Mundaring	PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 488.20
10/02/2023	PETTY CASH		PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT - HUB OF THE HILLS	\$ 198.85	
12/02/2023	PETTY CASH		PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT - BROWN PARK	\$ 289.35	
20/02/2023	00200587	Alinta Energy	GAS		\$ 203.30
17/02/2023	1563279509		GAS - BRUCE DOUGLAS PAVILION	\$ 203.30	
27/02/2023	00200588	Shire of Mundaring	PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 328.65
20/02/2023	PETTY CASH		PETTY CASH REIMBURSEMENT - MUNDARING LIBRARY	\$ 328.65	
27/02/2023	00200589	Alinta Energy	GAS		\$ 482.00
24/02/2023	5346461905		GAS - BROWN PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 40.15	
24/02/2023	5346461905		GAS - BROWN PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 46.55	
24/02/2023	2559546709		GAS - MECPC 14/11/2022 TO 14/02/2023	\$ 395.30	
Total Confirmation Cheques				\$ 2,803.50	\$ 2,803.50
Electronic Funds Transfer					
01/02/2023	3342.11205-01	Mr J S Martin	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 7,412.92
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 2,408.42	
01/02/2023	ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 4,712.83	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.11210-01	Mr D A Jeans	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,135.09
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.11587-01	Mrs N D Zlatnik	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,135.09
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.11784-01	Mrs A E Collins	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,135.09
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.13101-01	Mr M D Corica	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,214.02
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	TRAVEL		TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT 84KM 29/11/2022 - 24/01/2023	\$ 78.93	
01/02/2023	3342.14220-01	Ms K Beale	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,135.09
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.14221-01	Mrs P McNeil	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 3,313.26
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	DSP ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,178.17	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.14222-01	Mr L W Ellery	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,135.09
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.14236-01	Mrs J E Cicchini	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,135.09
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.14588-01	Mrs C L Hurst	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,135.09
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	3342.4526-01	Mr J S Daw	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,135.09
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	

MONTHLY LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID
FEBRUARY 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
01/02/2023	3342.8924-01	Ms P A Cook	COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCE		\$ 2,823.12
01/02/2023	MEETING FEE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,843.42	
01/02/2023	ICT ALLOWANCE		ENTITLEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 291.67	
01/02/2023	TRAVEL		TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT 1,016KM 2022	\$ 688.03	
01/02/2023	3343.3462-01	Care Giver Subsidies	CARE GIVER SUBSIDIES		\$ 20,011.49
01/02/2023	010223		CARE GIVER SUBSIDIES	\$ 20,011.49	
02/02/2023	3344.14927-01	S Bolton	REFUND		\$ 649.56
02/02/2023	REFUND		RATES REFUND	\$ 649.56	
06/02/2023	3345.34-01	Water Corporation	WATER RATES & FEES		\$ 12,565.94
03/02/2023	9004658644		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 5.42	
03/02/2023	9004658548		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 10,712.40	
03/02/2023	9004656438		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 5.42	
03/02/2023	9004656446		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 63.63	
03/02/2023	9004674708		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 748.51	
03/02/2023	9004676180		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 27.12	
03/02/2023	9004677028		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 648.17	
03/02/2023	9013212898		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 10.85	
03/02/2023	9004686215		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 344.42	
06/02/2023	3346.11647-01	Mr J J Griffiths	REFUND		\$ 30.00
03/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - DOG STERILISATION REBATE ANIMAL# 35597	\$ 30.00	
06/02/2023	3346.14931-01	Mr T C Langham	REFUND		\$ 441.00
03/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - PLANNING APPLICATION FEE - BLEINHAM PL SWAN VIEW	\$ 441.00	
06/02/2023	3346.14932-01	Ms A G King	REFUND		\$ 150.00
03/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - DOG STERILISATION REBATE ANIMAL# 40580	\$ 150.00	
06/02/2023	3346.14933-01	Ms C J Mendoza	CROSSOVER CONTRIBUTION		\$ 590.00
03/02/2023	X-OVER		CROSSOVER CONTRIBUTION - NARLOO WAY HELENA VALLEY	\$ 590.00	
06/02/2023	3346.14934-01	Mr A E Wallis	CROSSOVER CONTRIBUTION		\$ 590.00
03/02/2023	X-OVER		CROSSOVER CONTRIBUTION - PROSPERITY RD MT HELENA	\$ 590.00	
06/02/2023	3346.14935-01	Mr W J Consolaro	CROSSOVER CONTRIBUTION		\$ 590.00
03/02/2023	X-OVER		CROSSOVER CONTRIBUTION - INGRAM PL MAHOGANY CREEK	\$ 590.00	
06/02/2023	3346.174-01	Synergy	ELECTRICITY		\$ 6,974.67
03/02/2023	2869138323		ELECTRICITY	\$ 268.81	
03/02/2023	5358804327		ELECTRICITY	\$ 121.80	
03/02/2023	5100198416		ELECTRICITY	\$ 355.99	
12/01/2023	5162819914		ELECTRICITY	\$ 2,263.61	
25/01/2023	2686554727		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,326.50	
25/01/2023	5166165229		ELECTRICITY	\$ 289.04	
25/01/2023	5183606212		ELECTRICITY	\$ 246.75	
25/01/2023	9099006524		ELECTRICITY	\$ 317.78	
25/01/2023	6775766728		ELECTRICITY	\$ 420.00	
25/01/2023	4079099529		ELECTRICITY	\$ 275.40	
25/01/2023	2548038725		ELECTRICITY	\$ 817.01	
31/01/2023	1244788225		ELECTRICITY	\$ 271.98	
06/02/2023	3346.3416-01	Mount Helena Playgroup & Community	GRANT		\$ 2,200.00
03/02/2023	GRANT		MATCHING GRANT	\$ 2,200.00	
06/02/2023	3346.3754-01	Rural Building Company Pty Ltd	REFUND		\$ 877.14
03/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - 50% PLANNING APPLICATION FEE - GRAND VALLEY DR CHIDLOW	\$ 877.14	
06/02/2023	3346.5261-01	Mrs J R Home	REFUND		\$ 250.00
03/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - DOG STERILISATION REBATE ANIMAL# 40134	\$ 150.00	
03/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - DOG STERILISATION REBATE ANIMAL# 39498	\$ 100.00	
06/02/2023	3346.589-01	Shire of Mundaring	FDC PARENT LEVY		\$ 6,865.00
01/02/2023	010223		FDC PARENT LEVY	\$ 6,865.00	
06/02/2023	3346.5895-01	Parkerville Playgroup Inc	GRANT		\$ 300.00
03/02/2023	GRANT		VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT GRANT	\$ 300.00	
06/02/2023	3347.10584-01	LFA First Response Pty Ltd	FIRST AID SUPPLIES		\$ 2,055.67
02/02/2023	IN28538		SUPPLY FIRST AID KITS FOR STATION/FIRE SCHOOL	\$ 2,055.67	

**MONTHLY LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID
FEBRUARY 2023**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
06/02/2023	3347.11017-01	Sapio Pty Ltd	ALARM MONITORING		\$ 4,305.02
03/02/2023	MAS484969		ALARM MONITORING	\$ 4,154.73	
24/01/2023	SP225051		ATTEND SITE TO ATTEND MAIN ENTRY FAULT - BOYA COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 150.29	
06/02/2023	3347.11328-01	North Welding & Maintenance Service	MAINTENANCE		\$ 475.00
03/02/2023	288		REPAIR ENTRANCE GATE 4 - LAKE LESCHENAULTIA	\$ 475.00	
06/02/2023	3347.11413-01	Ergolink (Max & Claire Pty Ltd T/A)	FURNITURE		\$ 451.00
19/01/2023	SI-00080756		AIR MESH RATCHET STANDARD MOULDED FOAM SEAT	\$ 451.00	
06/02/2023	3347.11463-01	Taylor Sparks (The Trustee for Hampton)	SIGNAGE		\$ 427.63
03/02/2023	ts3532		RELOCATE ERFDC ADVERTISING SIGN TO CLAYTON VIEW	\$ 427.63	
06/02/2023	3347.11568-01	Bow Steel Pty Ltd	STEEL FABRICATION		\$ 286.00
03/02/2023	966		SUPPLY & FABRICATE STEEL T BAR	\$ 286.00	
06/02/2023	3347.11882-01	Fundangos (Teresa O'Brien T/As:)	ENTERTAINMENT		\$ 160.00
31/01/2023	557		FACE PAINTING - TWILIGHT TUNES MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 160.00	
06/02/2023	3347.12-01	Department of Human Services - Child	CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT		\$ 408.84
29/01/2023	PY02-16-CHILD SU		CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT	\$ 408.84	
06/02/2023	3347.12078-01	Recruitwest Pty Ltd	TEMP STAFF		\$ 14,887.89
03/02/2023	C INV 585862		TEMP STAFF - CDS DRIVER CONTAINERS COLLECTION	\$ 915.75	
03/02/2023	C INV 585857		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 1,849.21	
02/02/2023	C INV 585803		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 2,058.61	
01/02/2023	C INV 585802		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 4,117.22	
01/02/2023	C INV 585804		TEMP STAFF - PURCHASING OFFICER & DEPOT STAFF	\$ 4,275.36	
01/02/2023	C INV 585808		TEMP STAFF - CDS DRIVER CONTAINERS COLLECTION	\$ 915.75	
01/02/2023	C INV 585809		TEMP STAFF - OPERATIONS PURCHASING OFFICER	\$ 755.99	
06/02/2023	3347.12183-01	WA School Canteen Suppliers	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 2,500.65
25/01/2023	15306		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 111.60	
25/01/2023	15307		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 1,206.21	
27/01/2023	15328		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 1,113.09	
27/01/2023	15329		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 69.75	
06/02/2023	3347.12304-01	Quilts By Robyn	VISITOR CENTRE STOCK		\$ 70.00
19/01/2023	358		MUNDARING VISITOR CENTRE STOCK	\$ 70.00	
06/02/2023	3347.12470-01	Mr G Wood	FENCING		\$ 37,284.50
02/02/2023	IV00000001106		FENCING MATERIALS - PIONEER PARK MT HELENA	\$ 8,772.50	
01/02/2023	IV00000001105		FENCING - PINE TERRACE DARLINGTON	\$ 13,662.00	
01/02/2023	IV00000001107		FENCING - NORRIS PARK STONEVILLE	\$ 14,850.00	
06/02/2023	3347.12579-01	Mr V Crowe	LANDSCAPE SERVICES		\$ 912.00
03/02/2023	2100		LANDSCAPE SERVICES	\$ 288.00	
03/02/2023	2099		LANDSCAPE SERVICES	\$ 336.00	
03/02/2023	2101		LANDSCAPE SERVICES	\$ 288.00	
06/02/2023	3347.12640-01	Officeworks Ltd	IT HARDWARE		\$ 2,741.94
31/01/2023	605090242		SUPPLY IPHONE 14 128GB & USB CYGNETT CHARGER	\$ 1,403.95	
31/01/2023	605176237		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 86.04	
06/02/2023	605357001		SUPPLY IPHONE 13 128GB & USB CYGNETT CHARGER	\$ 1,251.95	
06/02/2023	3347.12899-01	NAPA (A Division of GPC Asia Pacific)	PARTS		\$ 537.92
31/01/2023	1320267339		SUPPLY CABIN AIR FILTER FOR P4805	\$ 29.43	
31/01/2023	1320267476		SUPPLY AIR, OIL & FUEL FILTER FOR P727 & P2480	\$ 155.93	
31/01/2023	1320267257		SUPPLY AIR & OIL FILTERS FOR P4805	\$ 136.13	
31/01/2023	1320267531		SUPPLY FUEL FILTER FOR P727	\$ 49.78	
31/01/2023	1320266953		SUPPLY CABIN AIR FILTERS FOR P2486	\$ 89.10	
31/01/2023	1320266880		SUPPLY OF WORKSHOP CONSUMABLES	\$ 77.55	
06/02/2023	3347.12951-01	Traffic Force	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES		\$ 618.75
31/01/2023	00031953		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - BAILUP RD WOOROLOO	\$ 618.75	
06/02/2023	3347.13-01	Shire of Mundaring	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 12,201.49
29/01/2023	PY01-16-Private		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 12,201.49	
06/02/2023	3347.13085-01	Crown Equipment Pty Ltd	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE		\$ 494.40
31/01/2023	P10837		TRAVEL TO SITE & SERVICE FAULTY PALLET JACK - MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 494.40	
06/02/2023	3347.13124-01	Rebecca De Vries Photography	PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES		\$ 450.00
01/02/2023	20221207		PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES - TWILIGHT TUNES 28/01/2023	\$ 450.00	

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06/02/2023	3347.13208-01	Fire Protection Services WA Pty Ltd	MAINTENANCE		\$ 1,311.79
03/02/2023	9662		FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAINTENANCE - MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 184.25	
03/02/2023	9650		FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAINTENANCE - MUNDARING SHIRE	\$ 129.71	
03/02/2023	9644		FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAINTENANCE - MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 518.87	
03/02/2023	9652		FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAINTENANCE - BOYA COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 478.96	
06/02/2023	3347.13217-01	Mr B M Bulla	ENTERTAINMENT		\$ 700.00
01/02/2023	64		PERFORMANCE AT AUSTRALIA DAY CEREMONY 2023	\$ 400.00	
01/02/2023	65		PERFORMANCE AT TWILIGHT TUNES EVENT ON 28/01/2023	\$ 300.00	
06/02/2023	3347.13249-01	Pool & Pump Service & Repairs Pty Ltd	MAINTENANCE		\$ 605.00
31/01/2023	PPS000866		REPAIR SODA ASH PUMP - BILGOMAN AQUATIC CENTRE	\$ 605.00	
06/02/2023	3347.13268-01	Department of Human Services - The	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 136.96
29/01/2023	PY01-16-Centrelis		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 136.96	
06/02/2023	3347.13488-01	Tiger Concrete (Finetail Holdings Pty	EARTHWORKS		\$ 8,514.00
02/02/2023	43		SUPPLY CONCRETE PAD - MUNDARING CEMETERY & CHIDLOW SKATE PARK	\$ 8,514.00	
06/02/2023	3347.1350-01	Crackajack Party Hire	HIRE		\$ 859.10
02/02/2023	7985		HIRE FURNITURE & CATERING EQUIPMENT - AUSTRALIA DAY 2023	\$ 859.10	
06/02/2023	3347.13609-01	WA Treeworks (D & TL Barker Nominee	TREE WATERING SERVICE		\$ 9,415.73
06/02/2023	24034		TREE WATERING SERVICE - MAINTENANCE	\$ 9,415.73	
06/02/2023	3347.13698-01	Cafe Mojo Mundaring (A Space to Grow	CATERING		\$ 2,270.00
02/02/2023	1644/A		CATERING - AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST 2023	\$ 2,270.00	
06/02/2023	3347.13802-01	Construction Forestry Mining Energy	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 40.00
29/01/2023	PY02-16-CFMEU		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 40.00	
06/02/2023	3347.13866-01	Booktopia Pty Ltd	BOOKS		\$ 1,779.55
31/01/2023	18749764		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 129.76	
31/01/2023	18749692		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 437.39	
31/01/2023	18778444		BOOK STOCK - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 248.39	
31/01/2023	18788385		BOOK STOCK - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 613.27	
31/01/2023	18786420		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 350.74	
06/02/2023	3347.14013-01	Eastern Hills Chainsaws & Mowers Pty	EQUIPMENT REPAIRS		\$ 115.50
20/01/2023	49872		SERVICE EQUIPMENT - FIRE PROTECTION	\$ 115.50	
06/02/2023	3347.14037-01	Mr K B Fitzgerald	WELCOME TO COUNTRY		\$ 1,000.00
01/02/2023	17		WELCOME TO COUNTRY & SMOKE CEREMONY - AUSTRALIA DAY 2023	\$ 1,000.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14051-01	Sweeping Services Australia Pty Ltd	STREET SWEEPING SERVICES		\$ 9,081.17
01/02/2023	INV-0267		SUPPLY OF STREET SWEEPING SERVICES	\$ 9,081.17	
06/02/2023	3347.14060-01	Focus Coaching & Solutions (Jacquel	TRAINING		\$ 2,200.00
27/01/2023	2/2023		PROVIDE "NEXT STEPS" WORKSHOP - SC & PC MIDDLE SWAN	\$ 2,200.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14073-01	Tony's House of Tender Meats (GK &	FOOD		\$ 325.68
31/01/2023	31495		MEAT SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 325.68	
06/02/2023	3347.14170-01	The Re-Cyc-Ology Project	BOOKS		\$ 630.00
02/02/2023	311222		SUPPLY 14 COPIES OF THE BOOK HOLLOWED OUT	\$ 630.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14240-01	The Mucky Duck Bush Band (Donald R	ENTERTAINMENT		\$ 1,600.00
03/02/2023	280123		ENTERTAINMENT - TWILIGHT TUNES ON 28/01/2023	\$ 1,600.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14430-01	Ms A M Carlin	DESIGN FEES/COSTS		\$ 695.00
02/02/2023	#650		SOCIAL MEDIA MAGAGEMENT - JANUARY 2023 PERTH HILLS MUNDARING	\$ 695.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14435-01	Lou's Kitchen (Knights, Louisa Jayne	PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE		\$ 490.00
31/01/2023	INV-0212		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 490.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14496-01	Tyrepower Mundaring (The Trustee for	TYRES		\$ 394.00
01/02/2023	114678		SUPPLY & FIT 2 X NEW TYRES ON 869MDG	\$ 394.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14528-01	Training Momentum Pty Ltd	TRAINING		\$ 890.00
03/02/2023	00000441		HEALTH & SAFETY STAFF TRAINING - OSH OFFICER	\$ 890.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14609-01	Stylus Design (GMW and VM Langley	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 1,331.00
02/02/2023	INV-11906		PRODUCTION OF FINANCIAL REPORT 2022	\$ 1,331.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14644-01	Uniting Global Pty Ltd	CLEANING		\$ 6,002.96
03/02/2023	INV-0352		CLEANING SERVICES - BILGOMAN AQUATIC CENTRE - JANUARY 2023	\$ 6,002.96	
06/02/2023	3347.14771-01	Glen Forrest Pharmacy	FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT		\$ 69.95
02/02/2023	926049		FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT - BILGOMAN AQUATIC CENTRE	\$ 69.95	

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06/02/2023	3347.14899-01	Unicard Systems Pty Ltd	EQUIPMENT		\$ 281.93
31/01/2023	INV-72060		SUPPLY & DELIVER ID CARD PRINTER RIBBON & CLEANING KIT	\$ 281.93	
06/02/2023	3347.14909-01	NJM Woodcraft and Hire (Ngaere Joyce)	EQUIPMENT HIRE		\$ 480.00
01/02/2023	367		HIRE PLANTER CRATES WITH LED LIGHTS - TWILIGHT TUNES	\$ 480.00	
06/02/2023	3347.14919-01	Platinum carpentry & renovations	CARPENTRY		\$ 2,841.30
03/02/2023	00000002		REMOVE OLD DOORS & REPLACE - SWAN VIEW TENNIS COURT BUILDING	\$ 2,841.30	
06/02/2023	3347.1521-01	Dial A Nappy & Busiclean	GOODS		\$ 768.60
31/01/2023	INV-15632		CLEANING CHEMICALS FOR MECPC	\$ 768.60	
06/02/2023	3347.1689-01	Compsys Pty Ltd T/A Harmony Software	SUBSCRIPTION		\$ 635.00
03/02/2023	3-1419		SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION - DECEMBER 2022	\$ 635.00	
06/02/2023	3347.191-01	Eastern Region Security	SECURITY EXPENSES		\$ 4,037.00
02/02/2023	00021157		SECURITY EXPENSES - BILGOMAN AQUATIC CENTRE	\$ 3,206.50	
02/02/2023	00021159		SECURITY GUARD EXPENSES - TWILIGHT TUNES 28/01/2023	\$ 412.50	
02/02/2023	00021158		SECURITY GUARD EXPENSES - AUSTRALIA DAY CEREMONY	\$ 418.00	
06/02/2023	3347.1955-01	Cleanaway	RECYCLING FEES		\$ 79,561.52
01/02/2023	21715791		RECYCLING FEES	\$ 79,561.52	
06/02/2023	3347.21-01	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	TRANSFER STATION FEES		\$ 2,752.75
01/02/2023	EMRC48856		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 2,752.75	
06/02/2023	3347.215-01	Deputy Commissioner of Taxation	TAXATION		\$ 164,029.00
29/01/2023	PY01-16-Deputy C		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 139,261.00	
29/01/2023	PY02-16-Deputy C		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 24,768.00	
06/02/2023	3347.2165-01	Country Womens Association of WA Inc	CATERING		\$ 204.00
02/02/2023	176		CATERING SERVICES - STONEVILLE FIRE SCHOOL	\$ 204.00	
06/02/2023	3347.234-01	Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 690.20
02/02/2023	160596256		FOOD & CONSUMABLES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 690.20	
06/02/2023	3347.2625-01	Stewart & Heaton Clothing Co	UNIFORMS		\$ 544.85
31/01/2023	SIN-3652946		UNIFORMS - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 50.93	
31/01/2023	SIN-3652947		UNIFORMS - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 25.47	
31/01/2023	SIN-3653368		UNIFORMS - PARKERVILLE VBFB	\$ 468.45	
06/02/2023	3347.3088-01	Local Government Professionals	REGISTRATION		\$ 2,605.00
03/02/2023	35033		REGISTRATION - FINANCE PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE 2023	\$ 930.00	
03/02/2023	35030		REGISTRATION - FINANCE PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE 2023	\$ 745.00	
03/02/2023	35036		REGISTRATION - FINANCE PROFESSIONALS CONFERENCE 2023	\$ 930.00	
06/02/2023	3347.3123-01	Office Line	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		\$ 405.90
31/01/2023	80368		SUPPLY 4 DRAWER PEDESTAL LOCKABLE DRAWERS	\$ 405.90	
06/02/2023	3347.320-01	Department of Fire & Emergency Service	COST SHARING OF CESM		\$ 23,455.00
20/01/2023	155025		COST SHARING OF CESM 30/09/2022 - 29/12/2022	\$ 23,455.00	
06/02/2023	3347.375-01	TOLL IPEC PRIORITY (IPEC Pty Ltd T/As	COURIER SERVICES		\$ 46.07
31/01/2023	0553-S364420		COURIER SERVICES	\$ 46.07	
06/02/2023	3347.381-01	Mundaring Electrical Contracting Service	ELECTRICAL SERVICES		\$ 852.50
02/02/2023	7508		ELECTRICAL SERVICES - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 715.00	
03/02/2023	7509		ELECTRICAL SERVICES - MUNDARING REC GROUND	\$ 137.50	
06/02/2023	3347.385-01	Mundaring News & Lotto	SUBSCRIPTIONS		\$ 463.35
27/01/2023	6490		MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ 155.60	
27/01/2023	6491		MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS	\$ 307.75	
06/02/2023	3347.386-01	Educational Art Supplies	ART SUPPLIES		\$ 174.96
06/02/2023	3544547		ART SUPPLIES	\$ 174.96	
06/02/2023	3347.3868-01	Bucher Municipal Pty Ltd	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		\$ 1,250.63
02/02/2023	1052745		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR P2488	\$ 1,250.63	
06/02/2023	3347.4-01	Health Insurance Fund of WA	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 923.30
29/01/2023	PY01-16-HIF		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 923.30	
06/02/2023	3347.452-01	Mahogany Building & Design	MAINTENANCE		\$ 775.50
03/02/2023	INV0435		MAINTENANCE - CHIDLOW & MT HELENA PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 110.00	
03/02/2023	INV0434		MAINTENANCE - VARIOUS SHIRE BUILDINGS	\$ 665.50	
06/02/2023	3347.5719-01	Shire of Mundaring - Lotto Club	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 271.60
29/01/2023	PY01-16-STAFF LO		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 258.02	
29/01/2023	PY02-16-STAFF LO		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 13.58	

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06/02/2023	3347.599-01	Mundaring Adult Creative & Learning	ANNUAL FUNDING		\$ 9,424.00
31/01/2023	260123		ANNUAL FUNDING 3RD QUARTER CLAIM 2022/2023	\$ 9,424.00	\$ 9,424.00
06/02/2023	3347.6-01	Shire of Mundaring - Social Club	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 172.00
29/01/2023	PY01-16-MUNDARIN		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 170.00	\$ 172.00
29/01/2023	PY02-16-MUNDARIN		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 2.00	\$ 172.00
06/02/2023	3347.6419-01	Hills Fresh (WA) Pty Ltd	CATERING		\$ 200.00
02/02/2023	00008361		FRUIT PLATTERS FOR TWILIGHT TUNES ON 28/01/2023	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
06/02/2023	3347.6421-01	Vermeer Equipment of WA & NT	PARTS		\$ 4,359.85
03/02/2023	122642		SUPPLY PARTS FOR P2491	\$ 60.59	\$ 4,359.85
03/02/2023	122643		SUPPLY PARTS FOR P274	\$ 1,591.84	\$ 4,359.85
03/02/2023	122644		SUPPLY PARTS FOR P274	\$ 2,707.42	\$ 4,359.85
06/02/2023	3347.6553-01	Eastern Hills Liquid Waste	RUBBISH FEES		\$ 1,700.00
03/02/2023	7406		SEPTIC TANKS PUMPED - SCULPTURE PARK	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,700.00
06/02/2023	3347.6732-01	Relationships Australia Western Australia	EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM		\$ 176.00
03/02/2023	00408737		EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$ 176.00	\$ 176.00
06/02/2023	3347.68-01	The Watershed Water Systems	RETICULATION PARTS		\$ 178.74
31/01/2023	10230223		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 93.66	\$ 178.74
31/01/2023	10230224		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 85.08	\$ 178.74
06/02/2023	3347.7-01	Australian Services Union	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 177.30
29/01/2023	PY01-16-AUSTRALI		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 47.80	\$ 177.30
29/01/2023	PY02-16-AUSTRALI		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 129.50	\$ 177.30
06/02/2023	3347.7053-01	Darlington Review	ADVERTISING		\$ 132.00
03/02/2023	2796		ADVERTISING	\$ 132.00	\$ 132.00
06/02/2023	3347.7230-01	Boss Bobcat & Truck Service	EARTHWORKS		\$ 3,323.10
01/02/2023	10723		ASSIST IN TRENCHING BACK FILLING - MUNDARING OVAL	\$ 3,323.10	\$ 3,323.10
06/02/2023	3347.7426-01	Scoob's Dingo Service	FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE		\$ 1,114.52
03/02/2023	2681		CLEAN UP & SWEEP MUNDARING HARDCOURTS	\$ 752.40	\$ 1,114.52
02/02/2023	2682		FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE	\$ 362.12	\$ 1,114.52
06/02/2023	3347.80-01	Bunnings Group Limited	HARDWARE		\$ 1,496.28
06/02/2023	2440/01219559		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 778.01	\$ 1,496.28
31/01/2023	2052/01931795		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 39.00	\$ 1,496.28
31/01/2023	2440/01003651		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 679.27	\$ 1,496.28
06/02/2023	3347.8-01	LGRCEU	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 44.00
29/01/2023	PY02-16-LGRCEU		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 44.00	\$ 44.00
06/02/2023	3347.8545-01	Sankey Plumbing Service	PLUMBING		\$ 2,706.00
02/02/2023	5564		PLUMBING SERVICES - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 2,706.00
03/02/2023	5563		PLUMBING SERVICES - SHIRE ADMIN BUILDING	\$ 759.00	\$ 2,706.00
03/02/2023	5562		PLUMBING SERVICES - CHIDLOW PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 209.00	\$ 2,706.00
03/02/2023	5561		PLUMBING SERVICES - MT HELENA PAVILION	\$ 154.00	\$ 2,706.00
03/02/2023	5560		PLUMBING SERVICES - MORGAN JOHN MORGAN PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 132.00	\$ 2,706.00
03/02/2023	5559		PLUMBING SERVICES - MT HELENA OVAL CHANGEROOMS	\$ 132.00	\$ 2,706.00
06/02/2023	3347.8652-01	Quality Press	DFES PRINTED MATERIAL		\$ 163.35
02/02/2023	INV064957		DFES PRINTED MATERIAL	\$ 163.35	\$ 163.35
06/02/2023	3347.8829-01	All About You - Beauty to Perfection	ENTERTAINMENT		\$ 175.00
02/02/2023	2023-03		FACE PAINTING SERVICES - TWILIGHT TUNES 28/01/2023	\$ 175.00	\$ 175.00

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06/02/2023	3347.8976-01	Kool Line Electrical & Refrigeration	ELECTRICAL SERVICES		\$ 485.00
06/02/2023	00127604		ELECTRICAL SERVICES - MUNDARING OVAL PUMP	\$ 485.00	
06/02/2023	3347.9314-01	Mr C H Burns	VISITOR CENTRE STOCK		\$ 45.00
02/02/2023	0013		SUPPLY 3 BOOKS FOR VISITOR CENTRE STOCK	\$ 45.00	
06/02/2023	3347.9596-01	Brice Pest Management	TERMITE TREATMENT		\$ 418.00
06/02/2023	IV05367		TERMITE TREATMENT - BOYA OVAL	\$ 154.00	
06/02/2023	IV05365		TERMITE TREATMENT - ROBINSON RD MAHOGANY CREEK	\$ 264.00	
06/02/2023	3347.9627-01	MPK Tree Management Pty Ltd	STREET TREE MAINTENANCE		\$ 7,830.35
31/01/2023	5539		STREET TREE MAINTENANCE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$ 1,738.00	
31/01/2023	5580		STREET TREE MAINTENANCE - GABO RD GREENMOUNT	\$ 530.75	
31/01/2023	5595		STREET TREE MAINTENANCE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$ 2,780.80	
31/01/2023	5596		STREET TREE MAINTENANCE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$ 2,780.80	
06/02/2023	3347.969-01	Slater Gartrell Sports	EARTHWORKS		\$ 5,269.00
06/02/2023	SG56397/01		SUPPLY & INSTALL NEW SYNTHETIC TURF - CHIDLOW OVAL	\$ 5,269.00	
06/02/2023	3347.9698-01	Managed System Services Pty Ltd	IT HARDWARE		\$ 86,539.86
25/01/2023	INV-8334		SUPPLY 20 X HP USB-C ESSENTIAL DOCKS	\$ 4,039.86	
06/02/2023	INV-8380		MSS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - 1000 HOURS	\$ 82,500.00	
09/02/2023	3348.14940-01	Mrs C Di Ilio	REFUND		\$ 1,707.89
09/02/2023	REFUND		RATES REFUND	\$ 1,707.89	
08/02/2023	3349.3462-01	Care Giver Subsidies	CARE GIVER SUBSIDIES		\$ 19,855.32
10/02/2023	080223		CARE GIVER SUBSIDIES	\$ 19,855.32	
13/02/2023	3350.34-01	Water Corporation	WATER RATES & FEES		\$ 4,510.19
10/02/2023	9004697117		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 3,593.40	
10/02/2023	9004566571		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 385.24	
10/02/2023	9010772929		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 452.90	
10/02/2023	9004686864		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 78.65	
13/02/2023	3351.14004-01	Shed Rite (Ellenbrook Shed Pty Ltd)	REFUND		\$ 147.00
10/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - PLANNING APPLICATION KATHARINE ST HELENA VALLEY	\$ 147.00	
13/02/2023	3351.14910-01	Telstra Limited	TELEPHONE		\$ 22,086.08
13/02/2023	2085566000		TELEPHONE CHARGES - JANUARY 2023	\$ 22,086.08	
13/02/2023	3351.14944-01	Mr A R Pratt	REFUND		\$ 256.00
10/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - PLANNING APPLICATION REDTAIL RISE STONEVILLE	\$ 256.00	
13/02/2023	3351.14945-01	Ms T Linthorne-Wilson	REFUND		\$ 257.27
10/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - CHILD CARE FEES - MIDVALE HUB	\$ 257.27	
13/02/2023	3351.174-01	Synergy	ELECTRICITY		\$ 13,613.82
10/02/2023	5008526913		ELECTRICITY	\$ 471.63	
10/02/2023	3666408227		ELECTRICITY	\$ 684.96	
10/02/2023	3625641925		ELECTRICITY	\$ 383.82	
10/02/2023	5039289513		ELECTRICITY	\$ 497.72	
25/01/2023	3671966720		ELECTRICITY	\$ 3,569.06	
25/01/2023	5145475816		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,967.56	
25/01/2023	5603941927		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,437.94	
31/01/2023	1808368323		ELECTRICITY	\$ 3,317.47	
03/02/2023	1021165328		ELECTRICITY	\$ 223.60	
03/02/2023	3051745929		ELECTRICITY	\$ 926.87	
03/02/2023	4504944122		ELECTRICITY	\$ 133.19	
13/02/2023	3351.589-01	Shire of Mundaring	PURCHASE OF 2945 JACOBY STREET MUNDARING		\$ 3,143.97
19/12/2022	REFUND		RATES - 2945 JACOBY STREET MUNDARING	\$ 3,143.97	
13/02/2023	3352.10596-01	TJ Signs & Vehicle Graphics	SIGNAGE		\$ 2,992.00
10/02/2023	001927		SUPPLY & FIT CUSTOM TRUCK BODY WRAP & DECALS ON 800MDG	\$ 2,992.00	

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13/02/2023	3352.11135-01	Frontline Fire & Rescue (Bluesteel)	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		\$ 13,409.39
07/02/2023	77112		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - CHIDLOW VBFB	\$ 1,642.40	
07/02/2023	77214		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - PARKERVILLE VBFB	\$ 349.47	
07/02/2023	77172		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - WOOROLOO VBFB	\$ 94.05	
07/02/2023	77208		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - WOOROLOO VBFB	\$ 198.00	
07/02/2023	77215		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - WOOROLOO VBFB	\$ 76.66	
07/02/2023	77121		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - STONEVILLE VBFB	\$ 1,171.45	
10/02/2023	77144		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - PARKERVILLE VBFB	\$ 301.41	
10/02/2023	77131		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 1,462.38	
10/02/2023	77129		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - PARKERVILLE VBFB	\$ 600.34	
10/02/2023	77164		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - PARKERVILLE VBFB	\$ 1,452.00	
10/02/2023	77230		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - PARKERVILLE VBFB	\$ 301.41	
10/02/2023	77192		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 669.91	
10/02/2023	77154		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 301.41	
10/02/2023	77177		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 484.00	
10/02/2023	77143		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 94.28	
10/02/2023	77135		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 176.17	
10/02/2023	77108		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 599.50	
10/02/2023	77210		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 302.37	
10/02/2023	77217		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 602.80	
10/02/2023	77170		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - BRIGADE DISTRIBUTION	\$ 451.00	
07/02/2023	77186		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - STONEVILLE VBFB	\$ 32.34	
07/02/2023	77160		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - CHIDLOW VBFB	\$ 99.00	
07/02/2023	77159		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 28.60	
07/02/2023	77149		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - CHIDLOW VBFB	\$ 1,528.14	
07/02/2023	77116		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - MT HELENA VBFB	\$ 390.30	
13/02/2023	3352.11413-01	Ergolink (Max & Claire Pty Ltd T/A)	FURNITURE		\$ 451.00
09/02/2023	SI-00080882		AIR MESH RATCHET STANDARD MOULDED FOAM SEAT	\$ 451.00	
13/02/2023	3352.11678-01	Vorgee Pty Ltd	AQUATIC CENTRE SUPPLIES		\$ 1,257.30
09/02/2023	00171288		AQUATIC CENTRE SUPPLIES	\$ 1,257.30	
13/02/2023	3352.11840-01	Ready Garden Services	SLASHING WORKS		\$ 1,100.00
10/02/2023	INV-3964		SLASHING WORKS - VIVIAN WAY BOYA	\$ 1,100.00	
13/02/2023	3352.12078-01	Recruitwest Pty Ltd	TEMP STAFF		\$ 14,828.86
10/02/2023	C INV 585914		TEMP STAFF - OPERATIONS PURCHASING OFFICER	\$ 403.19	
10/02/2023	C INV 585856		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 4,265.57	
10/02/2023	C INV 585908		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 2,058.61	
10/02/2023	C INV 585907		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 1,543.96	
10/02/2023	C INV 585858		TEMP STAFF - PURCHASING OFFICER & DEPOT STAFF	\$ 3,079.88	
10/02/2023	C INV 585909		TEMP STAFF - PURCHASING OFFICER & DEPOT STAFF	\$ 2,561.90	
10/02/2023	C INV 585913		TEMP STAFF - CDS DRIVER CONTAINERS COLLECTION	\$ 915.75	
13/02/2023	3352.12183-01	WA School Canteen Suppliers	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 774.14
09/02/2023	15398		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 704.39	
09/02/2023	15399		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 69.75	
13/02/2023	3352.12336-01	Mitchell Byrne's Contracting	FIRE MITIGATION		\$ 1,518.00
10/02/2023	1137-2023		FIRE MITIGATION - MANDOON PARK COULSTON RD DARLINGTON	\$ 1,518.00	
13/02/2023	3352.12365-01	Playmakers Pty Ltd T/A The Play Works	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT		\$ 338.36
09/02/2023	10805		SUPPLY & DELIVER PLAYGROUND REPLACEMENT SEAT BELTS	\$ 338.36	
13/02/2023	3352.12451-01	Rainchaser Pumps and Reticulation	RETICULATION PARTS		\$ 758.25
10/02/2023	INV-3158		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 758.25	
13/02/2023	3352.12640-01	Officeworks Ltd	STATIONERY		\$ 251.95
10/02/2023	605012263		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 251.95	

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13/02/2023	3352.127-01	Volich Waste Contractors Pty Ltd	REFUSE CONTRACT		\$ 125,844.74
10/02/2023	00006331		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 220.00	
10/02/2023	00006332		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 96,437.09	
10/02/2023	00006333		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 5,243.17	
10/02/2023	00006334		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 2,256.80	
10/02/2023	00006335		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 8,888.70	
10/02/2023	00006336		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 1,166.00	
10/02/2023	00006337		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 177.36	
10/02/2023	00006338		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 336.95	
10/02/2023	00006339		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 339.13	
10/02/2023	00006340		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 562.67	
10/02/2023	00006341		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 10,058.18	
10/02/2023	00006342		REFUSE CONTRACT	\$ 158.69	
13/02/2023	3352.12764-01	Kit Bag (The Trustee for Green Family	FIRE SERVICES EQUIPMENT		\$ 700.00
27/01/2023	KB41480		OPERATIONAL CARRY BAGS - SHIRE FIRE OFFICERS	\$ 700.00	
13/02/2023	3352.12898-01	Accredit Building Surveying & Construct	BUILDING SURVEYING		\$ 2,310.00
10/02/2023	4814/11		BUILDING SURVEYING - YARRI GROVE MUNDARING	\$ 385.00	
10/02/2023	4816/11		BUILDING SURVEYING - OLD NORTHAM RD CHIDLOW	\$ 385.00	
10/02/2023	4813/11		BUILDING SURVEYING - HARTUNG ST MUNDARING	\$ 385.00	
10/02/2023	4812/11		BUILDING SURVEYING - LEATHER GREEN SAWYERS VALLEY	\$ 385.00	
10/02/2023	4811/11		BUILDING SURVEYING - MARNIE RD GLEN FORREST	\$ 385.00	
10/02/2023	4815/11		BUILDING SURVEYING - SCOTT ST HELENA VALLEY	\$ 385.00	
13/02/2023	3352.12899-01	NAPA (A Division of GPC Asia Pacific	PARTS		\$ 374.31
09/02/2023	1320269544		SUPPLY OF WORKSHOP CONSUMABLES	\$ 28.93	
09/02/2023	1320269454		SUPPLY AIR FILTER FOR P4814	\$ 117.70	
09/02/2023	1320269731		SUPPLY OF WORKSHOP CONSUMABLES	\$ 99.00	
09/02/2023	1320269793		SUPPLY OIL SEAL FOR P730	\$ 60.72	
09/02/2023	1320269114		SUPPLY LUBE FILTER FOR P300	\$ 28.05	
09/02/2023	1320269886		SUPPLY OF WORKSHOP CONSUMABLES	\$ 39.91	
13/02/2023	3352.12938-01	Aussie Broadband Pty Ltd	NBN FTTN, NBN FIBRE, SIP TRUNK & VOIP CHARGES		\$ 4,819.54
31/01/2023	23004219		NBN FTTN, NBN FIBRE, SIP TRUNK & VOIP CHARGES	\$ 4,819.54	
13/02/2023	3352.12944-01	Avon Tree Management (Kajanni Pty Ltd	REMOVE FALLEN TREES - DARLINGTON & SAWYE		\$ 54,662.00
10/02/2023	512		REMOVE FALLEN TREES - DARLINGTON & SAWYERS VALLEY	\$ 616.00	
10/02/2023	500		CONSTRUCT GRAVEL RD/CROSSOVER R4041 CLIFTON ST CHIDLOW	\$ 54,046.00	
13/02/2023	3352.12950-01	David Wills & Associates (DWA Consult	CONSULTING SERVICE		\$ 5,390.00
13/02/2023	00031773		CONSULTING SERVICE NEW JANE BROOK BRIDGE CROSSING	\$ 5,390.00	
13/02/2023	3352.13097-01	Survey Civil	DRAINAGE WORKS		\$ 3,256.00
10/02/2023	202		DRAINAGE WORKS - CNR SAW DR/NOONAMEENA DARLINGTON	\$ 3,256.00	
13/02/2023	3352.13107-01	490 Designs	STICKERS		\$ 88.00
09/02/2023	00003697		SUPPLY VINYL DATE STICKERS - TWILIGHT TUNES	\$ 88.00	
13/02/2023	3352.13124-01	Rebecca De Vries Photography	PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES		\$ 300.00
01/02/2023	20221122		PHOTOGRAPHY - AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY	\$ 300.00	
13/02/2023	3352.13345-01	ABM Landscaping (Mikevie Pty Ltd T/As	LANDSCAPING		\$ 39,417.43
06/02/2023	INV-3649		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - STONEVILLE FIRE HALL	\$ 209.00	
06/02/2023	INV-3674		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY	\$ 2,370.05	
06/02/2023	INV-3661		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - SCULPTURE PARK & MORGAN JOHN MORGAN	\$ 5,217.52	
09/02/2023	INV-3650		MOWING SERVICES - BILGOMAN AQUATIC CENTRE	\$ 1,270.50	
10/02/2023	INV-3679		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - KYARRA PARK HELENA VALLEY RESERVE	\$ 1,258.40	
10/02/2023	INV-3659		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - HELENA VALLEY RD HELENA	\$ 1,258.40	
06/02/2023	INV-3645		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - MUNDARING INFANT HEALTH CENTRE	\$ 110.00	
06/02/2023	INV-3642		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - HELENA VALLEY RD ENTRY STATEMENT	\$ 13,600.16	
06/02/2023	INV-3641		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - ADMIN & MUNDARING TOWN CENTRE	\$ 11,944.41	
06/02/2023	INV-3672		LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE - MUNDARING COMMUNITY CENTRES	\$ 2,178.99	
13/02/2023	3352.13368-01	Midland Nissan and Isuzu (Idom Midland	PARTS		\$ 443.48
03/02/2023	62207877		SUPPLY POWER WINDOW MOTOR FOR P2479	\$ 221.74	
03/02/2023	62207876		SUPPLY POWER WINDOW MOTOR FOR P2483	\$ 221.74	
13/02/2023	3352.13490-01	Humanness (MKI Group Pty Ltd T/As:)	DESIGN FEES/COSTS		\$ 1,375.00
09/02/2023	INV-H0123001		WEBSITE CONSULTANCY SERVICES - JANUARY 2023	\$ 1,375.00	

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13/02/2023	3352.135-01	BOC Ltd	CYLINDER RENTAL		\$ 153.86
03/02/2023	4033137455		CYLINDER RENTAL CHARGES	\$ 153.86	
13/02/2023	3352.13594-01	Bitumen Surfacing	ASPHALT		\$ 28,551.60
10/02/2023	00007369		ASPHALT WORKS - EASON/THROSSSELL STREET SAWYERS VALLEY	\$ 28,551.60	
13/02/2023	3352.13609-01	WA Treeworks (D & TL Barker Nominee)	TREE WATERING SERVICE		\$ 14,117.03
06/02/2023	24055		TREE WATERING SERVICE - JANUARY 2023	\$ 14,117.03	
13/02/2023	3352.13650-01	JAR Event Productions Pty Ltd	ENTERTAINMENT		\$ 1,328.80
02/02/2023	JAR-INV2048991		EQUIPMENT HIRE - TWILIGHT TUNES ON 28/01/2023	\$ 1,328.80	
13/02/2023	3352.13866-01	Booktopia Pty Ltd	BOOKS		\$ 1,650.70
09/02/2023	18821501		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 208.92	
09/02/2023	18801146		BOOK STOCK - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 424.55	
09/02/2023	18826020		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 309.12	
09/02/2023	18825073		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 389.36	
09/02/2023	18831571		BOOK STOCK - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 318.75	
13/02/2023	3352.14013-01	Eastern Hills Chainsaws & Mowers Pty	EQUIPMENT REPAIRS		\$ 1,724.70
09/02/2023	49886 #4		SUPPLY CORDLESS BLOWER, BATTERIES & CHARGER	\$ 1,724.70	
13/02/2023	3352.14051-01	Sweeping Services Australia Pty Ltd	STREET SWEEPING SERVICES		\$ 8,521.92
10/02/2023	INV-0277		SUPPLY OF STREET SWEEPING SERVICES	\$ 8,521.92	
13/02/2023	3352.14073-01	Tony's House of Tender Meats (GK &	FOOD		\$ 325.36
10/02/2023	31801		MEAT SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 325.36	
13/02/2023	3352.14200-01	Mundaring Glass and Security (The	REPAIRS		\$ 1,692.15
10/02/2023	00003518		REPAIR VANDALISED WINDOWS - CHIDLOW PAVILION	\$ 1,692.15	
13/02/2023	3352.14263-01	Woorodale Farm (Kenneth B Hammond)	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 60.55
09/02/2023	BJS290123		PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITY IMAGES - WOOROLOO BUSHFIRE	\$ 60.55	
13/02/2023	3352.14394-01	Creative Catering Trust (The Trustee	CATERING		\$ 936.00
10/02/2023	INV-1972		CATERING - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON 24/01/2023	\$ 936.00	
13/02/2023	3352.14430-01	Ms A M Carlin	DESIGN FEES/COSTS		\$ 1,355.00
07/02/2023	#649		SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT - JANUARY 2023 LAKE LESCHENAULTIA	\$ 1,355.00	
13/02/2023	3352.14435-01	Lou's Kitchen (Knights, Louisa Jayne	PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE		\$ 162.00
10/02/2023	INV-0215		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 162.00	
13/02/2023	3352.14496-01	Tyrepower Mundaring (The Trustee for	TYRES & REPAIRS		\$ 35.00
09/02/2023	114919		REPAIR TYRE ON 861MDG	\$ 35.00	
13/02/2023	3352.145-01	Schweppes Australia Pty Ltd (Asahi Bev	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 2,016.97
27/01/2023	9011600890		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 1,441.96	
27/01/2023	9011601508		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 575.01	
13/02/2023	3352.14583-01	Fleet Network Pty Ltd	NOVATED LEASE		\$ 762.85
09/02/2023	117937		NOVATED LEASE CHARGES 01/02/2023	\$ 762.85	
13/02/2023	3352.14609-01	Stylus Design (GMW and VM Langley T	ANNUAL REPORT		\$ 2,662.00
07/02/2023	INV-11905		PRODUCTION OF ANNUAL REPORT 2022	\$ 2,662.00	
13/02/2023	3352.14611-01	Ohura Consulting (Ohura Group Pty Ltd	CONSULTANCY SERVICES		\$ 1,188.60
09/02/2023	INV-0330		CONSULTANCY SERVICES - EA NEGOTIATIONS 2022-2023	\$ 1,188.60	
13/02/2023	3352.14723-01	Auto Tow Services (Auto Tow Nominees	TOWING		\$ 220.00
09/02/2023	7983/10		TOWING SERVICES	\$ 220.00	
13/02/2023	3352.14851-01	Mrs K L Battistessa	TOURISM MARKETING SERVICES		\$ 1,781.25
10/02/2023	#002		TOURISM MARKETING SERVICES - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,781.25	
13/02/2023	3352.14919-01	Platinum carpentry & renovations	CARPENTRY		\$ 4,396.70
09/02/2023	00000001		REMOVE & INSTALL ENTRY DOOR - BROWN PARK CLUBROOMS	\$ 1,899.70	
10/02/2023	00000003		REPLACE BROKEN EAVE SHEETS - SWAN VIEW HEALTH CLINIC	\$ 2,497.00	
13/02/2023	3352.14930-01	True Finish Floor Sanding (Wade	FLOORING		\$ 330.00
07/02/2023	INV-02088		REPAIR & REPLACE BROKEN JARRAH FLOOR BOARDS - MUNDARING HALL	\$ 330.00	
13/02/2023	3352.14936-01	Perth Bouncy Castle Hire (KGO Invest	EQUIPMENT HIRE		\$ 1,684.54
10/02/2023	#31728		EQUIPMENT HIRE - VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE FAMILY BBQ	\$ 1,684.54	
13/02/2023	3352.14943-01	The Hybrid Minds (Daniel Augustine	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 242.00
13/02/2023	10378		FILMING ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTAGE	\$ 242.00	

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13/02/2023	3352.15-01	Australia Post	POSTAGE		\$ 2,074.69
09/02/2023	1012166356		DAILY OUTGOING MAIL	\$ 1,319.23	
10/02/2023	1012165967		POSTAGE CHARGES LIBRARY	\$ 107.25	
03/02/2023	1012152774		RATES COLLECTION FEES 2022/2023	\$ 648.21	
13/02/2023	3352.1644-01	Woolworths Group Limited	FOOD & CONSUMABLES FOR CHILDREN		\$ 420.34
10/02/2023	TI-019C7-CC9C8		FOOD & CONSUMABLES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 94.03	
10/02/2023	TI-019C7-D42AB		FOOD & CONSUMABLES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 80.35	
10/02/2023	TI-019C7-C9E59		FOOD & CONSUMABLES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 245.96	
13/02/2023	3352.170-01	ASSA ABLOY Australia Pty Ltd	HARDWARE		\$ 4,742.63
09/02/2023	IN02399335		SUPPLY PADLOCKS & KEYS	\$ 4,742.63	
13/02/2023	3352.191-01	Eastern Region Security	SECURITY EXPENSES		\$ 4,840.00
09/02/2023	00021209		SECURITY EXPENSES	\$ 110.00	
09/02/2023	00021215		SECURITY EXPENSES	\$ 2,288.00	
03/02/2023	00021199		SECURITY EXPENSES - LAKE LESCHENAULTIA AUSTRALIA DAY	\$ 1,540.00	
10/02/2023	00020958		SECURITY EXPENSES - DARLINGTON BUSH FIRE BRIGADE	\$ 242.00	
10/02/2023	00021212		SECURITY EXPENSES - DARLINGTON BUSH FIRE BRIGADE	\$ 440.00	
10/02/2023	00021210		SECURITY EXPENSES - ADMIN	\$ 110.00	
06/02/2023	00021211		SECURITY EXPENSES - SHIRE DEPOT	\$ 110.00	
13/02/2023	3352.21-01	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	TRANSFER STATION FEES		\$ 134,088.69
10/02/2023	EMRC48983		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 148.61	
10/02/2023	EMRC48816		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 47,130.59	
10/02/2023	EMRC48925		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 43,096.91	
10/02/2023	EMRC48982		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 43,712.58	
13/02/2023	3352.2165-01	Country Womens Association of WA Inc	CATERING		\$ 306.00
10/02/2023	177		CATERING SERVICES - STONEVILLE FIRE SCHOOL	\$ 306.00	
13/02/2023	3352.234-01	Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 681.49
10/02/2023	161007773		FOOD & CONSUMABLES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 681.49	
13/02/2023	3352.2625-01	Stewart & Heaton Clothing Co	UNIFORMS		\$ 394.11
07/02/2023	SIN-3658717		UNIFORMS - CHIDLOW VBFB	\$ 98.53	
07/02/2023	SIN-3658675		UNIFORMS - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 98.53	
07/02/2023	SIN-3658708		UNIFORMS - WOOROLOO VBFB	\$ 197.05	
13/02/2023	3352.314-01	Landgate	TITLE SEARCHES		\$ 225.24
10/02/2023	1236409		ONLINE TITLE SEARCHES	\$ 84.60	
10/02/2023	381147		GROSS RENTAL VALUATIONS CHARGEABLE	\$ 140.64	
13/02/2023	3352.336-01	Fasta Courier Service	COURIER SERVICES		\$ 583.29
09/02/2023	277239		COURIER SERVICES	\$ 583.29	
13/02/2023	3352.3493-01	BGC Quarries	ROCKBASE		\$ 10,211.81
01/02/2023	IQ37267		SUPPLY 7MM & 14MM PRE-COATED GRANITE	\$ 10,211.81	
13/02/2023	3352.375-01	TOLL IPEC PRIORITY (IPEC Pty Ltd T/As	COURIER SERVICES		\$ 117.48
07/02/2023	0554-S364420		COURIER SERVICES	\$ 117.48	
13/02/2023	3352.381-01	Mundaring Electrical Contracting Service	ELECTRICAL SERVICES		\$ 682.66
09/02/2023	7515		ELECTRICAL SERVICES - CHIDLOW PROFESSIONAL ROOMS	\$ 523.16	
09/02/2023	7512		ELECTRICAL SERVICES - ADMIN BUILDING	\$ 159.50	
13/02/2023	3352.452-01	Mahogany Building & Design	MAINTENANCE		\$ 363.00
09/02/2023	INV0436		MAINTENANCE - CHIDLOW PROFESSIONAL ROOMS	\$ 363.00	
13/02/2023	3352.4584-01	Early Childhood Australia Inc	SUBSCRIPTION		\$ 275.00
10/02/2023	INV-33289		ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	\$ 275.00	
13/02/2023	3352.4811-01	West Sure Group Pty Ltd	SECURITY EXPENSES		\$ 484.62
10/02/2023	00026559		SECURITY EXPENSES	\$ 161.54	
10/02/2023	00026558		SECURITY EXPENSES	\$ 161.54	
10/02/2023	00026557		SECURITY EXPENSES	\$ 161.54	
13/02/2023	3352.54-01	The Framing Factory (F.E Davies & M.L	ART SUPPLIES		\$ 1,121.00
10/02/2023	INV-0338		CUSTOM FRAMING AUSTRALIAN COAT OF ARMS & PORTRAIT OF KING CHARLES	\$ 1,121.00	
13/02/2023	3352.5737-01	Land Focus	FEES		\$ 1,782.00
10/02/2023	C22044-2		DESIGN CONSULTANCY - MT HELENA ROUNDABOUT UPGRADE	\$ 1,782.00	
13/02/2023	3352.6050-01	Fuel Distributors of Western Australia	FUEL & OILS		\$ 25,828.18
10/02/2023	39103078		DIESEL FUEL	\$ 25,828.18	

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
13/02/2023	3352.6081-01	Blue Heeler Trading	GOODS		\$ 1,677.56
09/02/2023	00005724		UNIFORMS - AQUATIC CENTRE DUTY MANAGERS	\$ 1,677.56	
13/02/2023	3352.6419-01	Hills Fresh (WA) Pty Ltd	MILK		\$ 281.06
09/02/2023	ADMIN JAN 2023		MILK SUPPLY FOR SHIRE OF MUNDARING	\$ 281.06	
13/02/2023	3352.6732-01	Relationships Australia Western Australia	EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM		\$ 352.00
10/02/2023	00409315		EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$ 176.00	
03/02/2023	00408947		EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$ 176.00	
13/02/2023	3352.68-01	The Watershed Water Systems	RETICULATION PARTS		\$ 4,266.18
09/02/2023	10230689		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 122.41	
10/02/2023	10230624		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 1,559.74	
10/02/2023	10230807		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 2,409.03	
10/02/2023	10230806		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 175.00	
13/02/2023	3352.7053-01	Darlington Review	ADVERTISING		\$ 165.00
09/02/2023	2794		ADVERTISING	\$ 165.00	
13/02/2023	3352.709-01	Mundaring & Hills Historical Society	GRANT		\$ 16,575.00
09/02/2023	1107		QUARTERLY FUNDING JANUARY TO MARCH 2023	\$ 16,575.00	
13/02/2023	3352.7360-01	Metrocount	EQUIPMENT HIRE		\$ 1,081.30
09/02/2023	INV031459		HIRE OF 2 X RIPOD BT 5926 COUNTERS	\$ 1,081.30	
13/02/2023	3352.7426-01	Scoob's Dingo Service	FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE		\$ 2,351.25
09/02/2023	2683		FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,351.25	
13/02/2023	3352.7482-01	Subway Mundaring (The Trustee for	CATERING		\$ 1,024.00
10/02/2023	231114		CATERING - TWILIGHT TUNES ON 28/01/2023	\$ 1,024.00	
13/02/2023	3352.7489-01	Sparks Refrigeration & Airconditioning	ELECTRICAL SERVICES		\$ 7,161.00
09/02/2023	INV-2625		INVESTIGATE & REPAIR AIRCONDITIONER - ADMIN COMMITTEE ROOM	\$ 7,161.00	
13/02/2023	3352.7541-01	Connect Call Centre Services	CALL CENTRE COSTS		\$ 1,289.86
10/02/2023	00112830		CALL CENTRE COSTS - SEPTEMBER 2022	\$ 1,289.86	
13/02/2023	3352.7590-01	PFD Food Services Pty Ltd	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 13,506.30
27/01/2023	LF689603		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 207.10	
27/01/2023	LF747988		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 518.20	
27/01/2023	LF689601		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 2,889.00	
09/02/2023	LF750443		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 684.05	
09/02/2023	LF747986		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 35.10	
09/02/2023	LF750446		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 3,159.55	
09/02/2023	LF681244		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 1,907.75	
09/02/2023	LF772095		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 1,313.80	
09/02/2023	LF810389		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 2,791.75	
13/02/2023	3352.7641-01	Easifleet	NOVATED LEASE		\$ 17,754.43
09/02/2023	169469		NOVATED LEASE - FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 16,194.79	
09/02/2023	169740		NOVATED LEASE - FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,559.64	
13/02/2023	3352.7806-01	Weston Road Systems	LINE MARKING		\$ 3,801.60
10/02/2023	Mund 145		SPOTTING OF LINE MARKING - PHILLIPS RD MUNDARING	\$ 3,801.60	
13/02/2023	3352.80-01	Bunnings Group Limited	HARDWARE		\$ 1,335.79
09/02/2023	2440/01177905		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 127.71	
09/02/2023	2440/01179399		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 571.28	
09/02/2023	2440/00108426		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 18.30	
09/02/2023	2440/00731803		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 227.90	
20/01/2023	2440/01180253		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 390.60	
13/02/2023	3352.8060-01	Firetrain	TRAINING		\$ 852.50
10/02/2023	00040760		FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING - MUNDARING FIRE SCHOOL	\$ 456.50	
10/02/2023	00040730		FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING - MUNDARING FIRE SCHOOL	\$ 396.00	
13/02/2023	3352.8584-01	Great Sand Supplies Trust	GRAVEL		\$ 336.44
13/02/2023	00009019		SUPPLY SCREENED FACE GRAVEL	\$ 336.44	
13/02/2023	3352.8611-01	Brownes Foods Operations Pty Ltd	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 403.33
02/02/2023	16989709		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 403.33	
13/02/2023	3352.9493-01	Octagon Lifts Pty Ltd	MAINTENANCE		\$ 576.97
09/02/2023	59137		MAINTENANCE ON LIFT AT MUNDARING HALL	\$ 576.97	

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13/02/2023	3352.9596-01	Brice Pest Management	ANT TREATMENT		\$ 264.00
12/02/2023	IV05374		ANT TREATMENT - MUNDARING DEPOT	\$ 264.00	
13/02/2023	3352.9627-01	MPK Tree Management Pty Ltd	STREET TREE MAINTENANCE		\$ 4,213.00
09/02/2023	5606		STREET TREE MAINTENANCE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$ 1,432.20	
09/02/2023	5607		STREET TREE MAINTENANCE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$ 2,780.80	
13/02/2023	3352.9725-01	Science Alive Travelling Show	SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM		\$ 550.00
27/01/2023	51		SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM - KSP LIBRARY & AFM LIBRARY	\$ 550.00	
16/02/2023	3353.14948-01	Mrs P De Haan	REFUND		\$ 1,000.00
16/02/2023	REFUND		RATES REFUND	\$ 1,000.00	
15/02/2023	3354.3462-01	Care Giver Subsidies	CARE GIVER SUBSIDIES		\$ 19,613.98
16/02/2023	150223		CARE GIVER SUBSIDIES	\$ 19,613.98	
20/02/2023	3355.34-01	Water Corporation	WATER RATES & FEES		\$ 24,081.56
17/02/2023	9004688851		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 2,626.47	
17/02/2023	9004566600		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 1,704.81	
17/02/2023	9004565691		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 2,481.48	
17/02/2023	9004600055		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 12,652.74	
17/02/2023	9004607388		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 65.09	
17/02/2023	9004610501		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 13.96	
17/02/2023	9004615978		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 130.78	
17/02/2023	9014111730		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 78.65	
17/02/2023	9019991669		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 1,787.21	
17/02/2023	9022572692		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 290.18	
17/02/2023	9020758629		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 892.25	
17/02/2023	9020409381		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 241.37	
17/02/2023	9004277008		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 1,116.57	
20/02/2023	3356.14011-01	Miss K A Dore	REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 197.48
17/02/2023	REIMBURSEMENT		REIMBURSEMENT - COMMUNITY RECOVERY CATERING EXPENSES	\$ 197.48	
20/02/2023	3356.14954-01	Mrs D W Wells	REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 58.70
17/02/2023	REIMBURSEMENT		REIMBURSEMENT - PRE-EMPLOYMENT POLICE CLEARANCE EXPENSES	\$ 58.70	
20/02/2023	3356.14955-01	J & A Building	REFUND		\$ 322.18
17/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - BUILDING APPLICATION CHARGED TWICE	\$ 322.18	
20/02/2023	3356.174-01	Synergy	ELECTRICITY		\$ 73,621.11
17/02/2023	5085138314		ELECTRICITY	\$ 124.39	
17/02/2023	4294733928		ELECTRICITY	\$ 164.38	
17/02/2023	2475997123		ELECTRICITY	\$ 52.32	
17/02/2023	9159298220		ELECTRICITY	\$ 777.60	
17/02/2023	5026791717		ELECTRICITY	\$ 305.93	
17/02/2023	1635825121		ELECTRICITY	\$ 272.53	
17/02/2023	5192608710		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,000.41	
17/02/2023	5831532322		ELECTRICITY	\$ 801.68	
17/02/2023	1187187526		ELECTRICITY	\$ 156.87	
17/02/2023	5213386810		ELECTRICITY	\$ 788.68	
17/02/2023	1059211527		ELECTRICITY	\$ 512.08	
10/02/2023	7556391528		ELECTRICITY	\$ 264.40	
10/02/2023	4743483524		ELECTRICITY	\$ 105.59	
10/02/2023	3021647529		STREET LIGHTING CHARGES	\$ 66,499.04	
10/02/2023	5416370728		ELECTRICITY	\$ 525.16	
10/02/2023	6945660323		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,270.05	
20/02/2023	3356.589-01	Shire of Mundaring	FDC PARENT LEVY		\$ 13,838.50
16/02/2023	080223		FDC PARENT LEVY	\$ 6,951.00	
16/02/2023	150223		FDC PARENT LEVY	\$ 6,887.50	
20/02/2023	3356.6549-01	Mr K H Kitchin	REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 105.19
17/02/2023	REIMBURSEMENT		REIMBURSEMENT - FUEL EXPENSES FOR 811MDG ON 01/01/2023	\$ 105.19	
20/02/2023	3357.10615-01	JLR Pumps	MAINTENANCE		\$ 858.00
14/02/2023	755		REMOVE OLD PUMP & INSTALL NEW PUMP - KARDINA BROOK	\$ 858.00	
20/02/2023	3357.10637-01	Grants Empire	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 1,122.00
17/02/2023	00002149		DEVELOP COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS NOMINATION	\$ 1,122.00	

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20/02/2023	3357.10881-01	Alsco Pty Ltd	FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT		\$ 1,599.83
14/02/2023	CPER2289298		SERVICING SANITARY & NAPPY UNITS	\$ 787.82	
14/02/2023	CPER2291239		FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT	\$ 113.00	
14/02/2023	CPER2291244		FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT	\$ 113.00	
14/02/2023	CPER2291241		FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT	\$ 32.92	
14/02/2023	CPER2291240		FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT	\$ 399.41	
14/02/2023	CPER2291242		FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT	\$ 31.85	
14/02/2023	CPER2291243		FIRST AID REPLENISHMENT	\$ 121.83	
20/02/2023	3357.11135-01	Frontline Fire & Rescue (Bluesteel)	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		\$ 154.99
14/02/2023	77293		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 11.00	
14/02/2023	77294		REFLECTIVE ARCH STICKERS	\$ 143.99	
20/02/2023	3357.11463-01	Taylor Sparks (The Trustee for Hampton)	DESIGN FEES/COSTS		\$ 1,651.21
16/02/2023	ts3539		RENEWAL MIDVALE HUB WEBSITE HOSTING/MANAGEMENT	\$ 1,651.21	
20/02/2023	3357.11840-01	Ready Garden Services	SLASHING WORKS		\$ 5,800.00
16/02/2023	INV-3982		SLASHING WORKS - LEAWOOD CRESCENT BOYA	\$ 5,800.00	
20/02/2023	3357.12-01	Department of Human Services - Child	CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT		\$ 408.84
12/02/2023	PY02-17-CHILD SU		CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENT	\$ 408.84	
20/02/2023	3357.12078-01	Recruitwest Pty Ltd	TEMP STAFF		\$ 5,203.26
17/02/2023	C INV 585973		TEMP STAFF - OPERATIONS PURCHASING OFFICER	\$ 806.39	
16/02/2023	C INV 585972		TEMP STAFF - CDS DRIVER CONTAINERS COLLECTION	\$ 793.65	
17/02/2023	C INV 585968		TEMP STAFF - PURCHASING OFFICER & DEPOT STAFF	\$ 3,603.22	
20/02/2023	3357.12422-01	MDM Plumbing and Gas	PLUMBING SERVICES		\$ 198.00
17/02/2023	2305		REPAIR CISTERN IN TOILET - LAKE LESCHENAULTIA CAMPGROUND	\$ 198.00	
20/02/2023	3357.12451-01	Rainchaser Pumps and Reticulation	RETICULATION PARTS		\$ 112.29
17/02/2023	INV-3183		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 112.29	
20/02/2023	3357.12470-01	Mr G Wood	FENCING		\$ 308.00
16/02/2023	IV00000001118		REPAIR FENCING - MATHIESON RD TRANSFER STATION	\$ 308.00	
20/02/2023	3357.12514-01	Nature Photography by Nathan	VISITOR CENTRE		\$ 31.80
17/02/2023	0151		SUPPLY 1 X LARGE PHOTO - VISITOR CENTRE STOCK	\$ 31.80	
20/02/2023	3357.12640-01	Officeworks Ltd	IT HARDWARE		\$ 139.28
03/02/2023	605580835		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 40.28	
06/02/2023	605539259		SUPPLY USB-C MINI DOCK	\$ 99.00	
20/02/2023	3357.12679-01	Roy Gripske & Sons Pty Ltd	PARTS		\$ 502.08
14/02/2023	1055933		SUPPLY DIAMOND EDGE TRIMMER LINE	\$ 502.08	
20/02/2023	3357.12824-01	Bob Jane T-Marts Midland (Gorgiovs)	TYRES		\$ 923.00
14/02/2023	225977		SUPPLY & FIT 4 X NEW TYRES ON 832MDG	\$ 923.00	
20/02/2023	3357.12899-01	NAPA (A Division of GPC Asia Pacific)	PARTS		\$ 673.53
14/02/2023	1320270755		SUPPLY OIL FILTER FOR P2500	\$ 74.80	
14/02/2023	1320270403		SUPPLY OIL, AIR & CABIN AIR FILTERS FOR P4804	\$ 168.85	
14/02/2023	1320270330		SUPPLY FILTERS FOR P2503, P2445 & P267	\$ 256.30	
14/02/2023	1320270606		SUPPLY OF WORKSHOP CONSUMABLES	\$ 173.58	
20/02/2023	3357.12938-01	Aussie Broadband Pty Ltd	NBN FTTN, NBN FIBRE, SIP TRUNK & VOIP CHARGES		\$ 4,273.61
06/02/2023	23268053		NBN FTTN, NBN FIBRE, SIP TRUNK & VOIP CHARGES	\$ 4,273.61	
20/02/2023	3357.12944-01	Avon Tree Management (Kajanni Pty Ltd)	FORESTRY MULCHING		\$ 5,706.16
20/02/2023	515		FORESTRY MULCHING - VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$ 5,706.16	
20/02/2023	3357.13-01	Shire of Mundaring	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 12,478.38
12/02/2023	PY01-17-Novated		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 12,478.38	
20/02/2023	3357.13085-01	Crown Equipment Pty Ltd	BATTERIES		\$ 3,149.00
14/02/2023	P11568		SUPPLY BATTERIES FOR ELECTRIC PALLET JACK - MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 3,149.00	
20/02/2023	3357.13268-01	Department of Human Services - The	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 175.48
12/02/2023	PY01-17-Centrel		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 175.48	
20/02/2023	3357.13594-01	Bitumen Surfacing	ASPHALT		\$ 28,378.37
16/02/2023	00007391		ASPHALT WORKS - CLIFTON STREET	\$ 28,378.37	
20/02/2023	3357.13802-01	Construction Forestry Mining Energy	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 40.00
12/02/2023	PY02-17-CFMEU		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 40.00	
20/02/2023	3357.13860-01	Miss T Huston	BOOKS		\$ 76.80
17/02/2023	00000579		SUPPLY 4 COPIES OF BIRDS OF THE PERTH HILLS BOOK	\$ 76.80	

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20/02/2023	3357.13866-01	Booktopia Pty Ltd	BOOKS		\$ 1,014.54
14/02/2023	18838271		BOOK STOCK - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 222.57	
14/02/2023	18865700		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 349.30	
14/02/2023	18860687		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 442.67	
20/02/2023	3357.13879-01	One Tree Community Services Inc	STAFF TRAINING		\$ 234.00
17/02/2023	3148		STAFF TRAINING - CERT III IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	\$ 234.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14073-01	Tony's House of Tender Meats (GK & KS	FOOD		\$ 377.47
16/02/2023	32139		MEAT SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 172.95	
17/02/2023	32317		MEAT SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 204.52	
20/02/2023	3357.14336-01	Moore Australia Audit (WA)	AUDIT FEES		\$ 1,320.00
17/02/2023	428435		AUDIT FEES MIDVALE HUB FOR YEAR END 30/06/2022	\$ 1,320.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14396-01	REmida Perth Inc	SUBSCRIPTION		\$ 205.00
16/02/2023	4043		ANNUAL CUSTOM MEMBERSHIP - ERFDC	\$ 205.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14431-01	Blacklist Coffee Roasters Trading Trust	PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE		\$ 280.00
16/02/2023	OMI10060a		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 280.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14487-01	Ecocern Pty Ltd	SEED ENVELOPES		\$ 346.50
20/02/2023	00015338		SEED ENVELOPES - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 346.50	
20/02/2023	3357.14496-01	Tyrepower Mundaring (The Trustee for	TYRES		\$ 1,576.00
14/02/2023	115077		SUPPLY & FIT 1 X NEW TYRE ON P704	\$ 448.00	
14/02/2023	115072		SUPPLY & FIT 4 X NEW TYRE ON 057MDG	\$ 1,128.00	
20/02/2023	3357.145-01	Schweppes Australia Pty Ltd (Asahi Bev	PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE		\$ 682.29
27/01/2023	9011627763		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 682.29	
20/02/2023	3357.14609-01	Stylus Design (GMW and VM Langley T	DESIGN FEES/COSTS		\$ 1,694.00
20/02/2023	INV-11919		DESIGN & FILE PREP INFORMING STRATEGY 2022/2026	\$ 1,694.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14618-01	LO-GO Appointments (Helene Pty Ltd	TEMP STAFF		\$ 2,955.76
16/02/2023	H1029		TEMP STAFF - RANGER	\$ 2,955.76	
20/02/2023	3357.14723-01	Auto Tow Services (Auto Tow Nominee	TOWING		\$ 308.00
14/02/2023	7097/2		TOWING SERVICES	\$ 308.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14811-01	Delivering Outcomes Pty Ltd	AUDIT SERVICES		\$ 3,575.00
17/02/2023	INV-0003		WORK HEALTH & SAFETY AUDIT SERVICES	\$ 3,575.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14870-01	Eastern Hills Bakery (Q.N Lowings &	CATERING		\$ 129.00
20/02/2023	8		CATERING - WHS MEETING ON 14/02/2023	\$ 129.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14897-01	Cleargard Australia Pty Ltd	MAINTENANCE		\$ 1,100.00
20/02/2023	12087		REMOVE ANTI-GRAFFITI FILM - BOYA COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 1,100.00	
20/02/2023	3357.14926-01	Hocking Heritage & Architecture	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 4,347.75
20/02/2023	INV-4479		PREPARE SHIRE OF MUNDARING HERITAGE STRATEGY PROJECT	\$ 4,347.75	
20/02/2023	3357.14943-01	The Hybrid Minds (Daniel Augustine	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 1,452.00
17/02/2023	10376		FILMING & EDITING TREE HABITAT VIDEO	\$ 1,452.00	
20/02/2023	3357.21-01	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	TRANSFER STATION FEES		\$ 214,066.43
16/02/2023	EMRC49038		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 1,240.25	
17/02/2023	EMRC48729		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 1,512.50	
17/02/2023	EMRC49122		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 44,423.82	
17/02/2023	EMRC49076		MATHIESON RD WASTE TRANSFER STATION - SITE MANAGEMENT	\$ 45,780.69	
17/02/2023	EMRC49077		COPPIN RD WASTE TRANSFER STATION - SITE MANAGEMENT	\$ 66,282.83	
17/02/2023	EMRC49078		MANAGEMENT OF CDS OPERATIONS AT COPPIN ROAD TRANSFER STATION	\$ 53,374.34	
17/02/2023	EMRC49157		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 1,452.00	
20/02/2023	3357.215-01	Deputy Commissioner of Taxation	TAXATION		\$ 160,623.00
12/02/2023	PY01-17-Deputy C		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 160,623.00	
20/02/2023	3357.234-01	Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 649.19
16/02/2023	161486830		FOOD & CONSUMABLES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 649.19	
20/02/2023	3357.3123-01	Office Line	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		\$ 1,657.70
30/01/2023	80509		SUPPLY & INSTALL WALL MOUNT CUPBOARDS - MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 1,657.70	
20/02/2023	3357.35-01	Nutrien Ag Solutions Limited	PPE EQUIPMENT		\$ 401.94
02/02/2023	908257087		SUPPLY 2 X 15L KNAPSACKS	\$ 401.94	
20/02/2023	3357.3868-01	Bucher Municipal Pty Ltd	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		\$ 208.19
02/02/2023	1054556		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR P2488	\$ 208.19	

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20/02/2023	3357.4-01	Health Insurance Fund of WA	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 923.30
12/02/2023	PY01-17-HIF		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 923.30	
20/02/2023	3357.4433-01	Marketforce Pty Ltd	ADVERTISING		\$ 557.64
14/02/2023	46596		ADVERTISING	\$ 557.64	
20/02/2023	3357.5169-01	Worldwide Online Printing (Crystal Print)	PHOTOCOPIER PRINTING		\$ 415.80
14/02/2023	1105317		SUPPLY 6 X ABANDONED VEHICLE REPORT BOOKS	\$ 415.80	
20/02/2023	3357.5390-01	WA Naturally Publications	VISITOR CENTRE STOCK		\$ 65.78
03/02/2023	P 1-01-031747		ASSORTED BOOKS FOR VISITOR CENTRE STOCK	\$ 65.78	
20/02/2023	3357.5719-01	Shire of Mundaring - Lotto Club	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 271.60
12/02/2023	PY01-17-STAFF LO		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 258.02	
12/02/2023	PY02-17-STAFF LO		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 13.58	
20/02/2023	3357.5943-01	Lyons Airconditioning Services WA Pty	EQUIPMENT REPAIRS		\$ 463.32
16/02/2023	INV000013519		REPAIR AIR CONDITIONING IN 033MDG	\$ 463.32	
20/02/2023	3357.5945-01	West Coast Spring Water Pty Ltd	CAFE BAR CONSUMABLES		\$ 68.88
10/02/2023	2571229		WATER BOTTLES FOR DEPOT WATER COOLERS	\$ 34.44	
12/02/2023	2575016		WATER BOTTLES FOR KSP LIBRARY	\$ 34.44	
20/02/2023	3357.6-01	Shire of Mundaring - Social Club	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 178.00
12/02/2023	PY01-17-MUNDARIN		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 176.00	
12/02/2023	PY02-17-MUNDARIN		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 2.00	
20/02/2023	3357.6050-01	Fuel Distributors of Western Australia	FUEL & OILS		\$ 860.20
14/02/2023	00446519		SUPPLY 1 X 200L CLEAN DEGREASER	\$ 860.20	
20/02/2023	3357.6585-01	Cian Midland Inc	TEMP STAFF		\$ 1,067.03
16/02/2023	00000575		TEMP STAFF - CRECHE WORKER	\$ 1,067.03	
20/02/2023	3357.6732-01	Relationships Australia Western Australia	EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM		\$ 352.00
10/02/2023	00409406		EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$ 176.00	
16/02/2023	00409715		EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	\$ 176.00	
20/02/2023	3357.68-01	The Watershed Water Systems	RETICULATION PARTS		\$ 592.35
14/02/2023	10231089		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 56.67	
14/02/2023	10230953		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 409.83	
16/02/2023	10230625		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 125.85	
20/02/2023	3357.7-01	Australian Services Union	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 227.10
12/02/2023	PY02-17-AUSTRALI		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 227.10	
20/02/2023	3357.7030-01	Mundaring Seniors Incorporated	REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 1,244.00
16/02/2023	3		REIMBURSEMENT VEHICLE LICENCE 1EWR880 & INSPECTION FEES	\$ 1,244.00	
20/02/2023	3357.7230-01	Boss Bobcat & Truck Service	MAINTENANCE		\$ 2,750.00
16/02/2023	10823		CLEANUP CUBBY & LITTER ON BOYAMYNE RD	\$ 2,750.00	
20/02/2023	3357.7426-01	Scoob's Dingo Service	FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE		\$ 4,274.38
17/02/2023	2685		FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE	\$ 3,385.80	
17/02/2023	2686		FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE	\$ 888.58	
20/02/2023	3357.7590-01	PFD Food Services Pty Ltd	PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE		\$ 2,888.20
16/02/2023	LF879475		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 1,680.65	
16/02/2023	LF888723		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 129.40	
16/02/2023	LF888724		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 1,078.15	
20/02/2023	3357.80-01	Bunnings Group Limited	HARDWARE		\$ 591.19
14/02/2023	2440/99812320		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 246.53	
14/02/2023	2440/01243004		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 344.66	
20/02/2023	3357.8-01	LGRCEU	PAYROLL DEDUCTION		\$ 44.00
12/02/2023	PY02-17-LGRCEU		PAYROLL DEDUCTION	\$ 44.00	
20/02/2023	3357.810-01	Royal Life Saving Society Western Aust	TRAINING		\$ 64.00
16/02/2023	151329		PROVIDE CPR TRAINING - COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OFFICER	\$ 64.00	
20/02/2023	3357.8374-01	Natural Area Holdings P/L T/A Natural	WEED CONTROL		\$ 1,509.09
10/02/2023	00019361		WEED CONTROL - STRETTLE ROAD	\$ 1,509.09	
20/02/2023	3357.8584-01	Great Sand Supplies Trust	GRAVEL		\$ 2,766.79
14/02/2023	00009067		SUPPLY UNSCREENED YELLOW FILL SAND	\$ 504.90	
14/02/2023	00009066		SUPPLY 25MM FERRICRETE	\$ 918.97	
14/02/2023	00009065		SUPPLY SCREENED FACE GRAVEL	\$ 1,342.92	

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20/02/2023	3357.8976-01	Kool Line Electrical & Refrigeration	ELECTRICAL SERVICES		\$ 465.00
14/02/2023	00127611		ELECTRICAL SERVICES - MT HELENA SKATE PARK	\$ 465.00	\$ 465.00
20/02/2023	3357.938-01	West Australian Newspapers Ltd	SUBSCRIPTIONS		\$ 144.00
20/02/2023	2023021615695		NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 144.00	\$ 144.00
20/02/2023	3357.9447-01	Del Botanics (Kylie Ellen Vardy T/As)	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 4,965.00
16/02/2023	280		FLORA & VEGETATION ASSESSMENT - RICHARDSON RD HOVEA	\$ 4,965.00	\$ 4,965.00
20/02/2023	3357.9627-01	MPK Tree Management Pty Ltd	STREET TREE MAINTENANCE		\$ 6,600.00
14/02/2023	5642		STREET TREE MAINTENANCE - COPPIN RD MUNDARING	\$ 3,555.20	\$ 6,600.00
14/02/2023	5608		STREET TREE MAINTENANCE - VARIOUS LOCATIONS	\$ 3,044.80	\$ 6,600.00
22/02/2023	3358.3462-01	Care Giver Subsidies	CARE GIVER SUBSIDIES		\$ 19,492.91
22/02/2023	220223		CARE GIVER SUBSIDIES	\$ 19,492.91	\$ 19,492.91
23/02/2023	3359.14960-01	Mr S W Smith	REFUND		\$ 2,804.14
23/02/2023	REFUND		RATES REFUND	\$ 2,804.14	\$ 2,804.14
23/02/2023	3360.13777-01	Baha'i Community of Mundaring	REFUND		\$ 110.00
17/02/2023	1433757		HALL BOND REFUND	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
23/02/2023	3360.14959-01	Mr M D Potts	REFUND		\$ 397.00
23/02/2023	REFUND		RATES REFUND	\$ 397.00	\$ 397.00
27/02/2023	3361.34-01	Water Corporation	WATER RATES & FEES		\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9009291271		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 520.70	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9019690081		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 557.96	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9004679816		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 2,834.20	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9004705199		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 100.34	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9018371679		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 86.78	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9004707493		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 260.35	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9004700304		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 8.07	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9004707805		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 501.72	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9004678303		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 767.50	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9004687154		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 482.74	\$ 15,597.27
25/02/2023	9004680614		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 9,432.34	\$ 15,597.27
27/02/2023	9004679250		WATER RATES & FEES	\$ 44.57	\$ 15,597.27
27/02/2023	3362.14716-01	Mr T Belger	REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 21.99
24/02/2023	REIMBURSEMENT		REIMBURSEMENT - WINDSCREEN SUN VISOR FOR 815MDG	\$ 21.99	\$ 21.99
27/02/2023	3362.14957-01	Rambrant Enterprises Pty Ltd	REFUND		\$ 72.50
22/02/2023	REFUND		REFUND - BIN ESTABLISHMENT CHARGED TWICE	\$ 72.50	\$ 72.50
27/02/2023	3362.14967-01	Mr C J Parkinson	CROSSOVER CONTRIBUTION		\$ 590.00
25/02/2023	X-OVER		CROSSOVER CONTRIBUTION - GEARY ST MUNDARING	\$ 590.00	\$ 590.00
27/02/2023	3362.174-01	Synergy	ELECTRICITY		\$ 10,492.17
10/02/2023	5185501927		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,095.64	\$ 10,492.17
10/02/2023	3509628321		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,646.83	\$ 10,492.17
20/02/2023	5233911527		ELECTRICITY	\$ 294.94	\$ 10,492.17
20/02/2023	5068955212		ELECTRICITY	\$ 212.01	\$ 10,492.17
20/02/2023	5087811715		ELECTRICITY	\$ 331.79	\$ 10,492.17
20/02/2023	5125442514		ELECTRICITY	\$ 189.59	\$ 10,492.17
21/02/2023	5056988325		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,338.27	\$ 10,492.17
21/02/2023	8852675527		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,195.56	\$ 10,492.17
21/02/2023	7436114725		ELECTRICITY	\$ 197.43	\$ 10,492.17
21/02/2023	0998549922		ELECTRICITY	\$ 1,240.50	\$ 10,492.17
22/02/2023	5147790712		ELECTRICITY	\$ 698.97	\$ 10,492.17
24/02/2023	5176146213		ELECTRICITY	\$ 879.20	\$ 10,492.17
24/02/2023	5172433125		ELECTRICITY	\$ 247.65	\$ 10,492.17
24/02/2023	3563304329		ELECTRICITY	\$ 286.04	\$ 10,492.17
24/02/2023	5085045110		ELECTRICITY	\$ 637.75	\$ 10,492.17
27/02/2023	3362.589-01	Shire of Mundaring	FDC PARENT LEVY		\$ 7,297.00
22/02/2023	220223		FDC PARENT LEVY	\$ 7,297.00	\$ 7,297.00
27/02/2023	3362.9897-01	Mr E D Gough	REIMBURSEMENT		\$ 60.00
23/02/2023	REIMBURSEMENT		REIMBURSEMENT - THOMAS COOK HAT - PPE EXPENSES	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
27/02/2023	3363.10637-01	Grants Empire	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 990.00
25/02/2023	00002151		DEVELOP LOTTERYWEST APPLICATION - DARLINGTON HERITAGE WALK TRAIL	\$ 990.00	\$ 990.00

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27/02/2023	3363.10746-01	Asphalt in a Bag	ASPHALT		\$ 1,853.50
14/02/2023	1637		SUPPLY BAGS OF ASPHALT	\$ 1,853.50	
27/02/2023	3363.10807-01	Total Green Recycling Pty Ltd	E-WASTE COLLECTION		\$ 1,696.75
14/02/2023	INV13093		COPPIN RD TRANSFER STATION - E-WASTE COLLECTION	\$ 1,696.75	
27/02/2023	3363.10904-01	Split Horizon Pty Ltd	IT HARDWARE		\$ 247.60
21/02/2023	INV-0536		SUPPLY HP USB-C G5 ESSENTIAL DOCKING STATION	\$ 247.60	
27/02/2023	3363.10921-01	Ixom Operations Pty Ltd	CHLORINE GAS SERVICE FEES		\$ 258.82
21/02/2023	6627790		CHLORINE GAS SERVICE FEES	\$ 258.82	
27/02/2023	3363.11017-01	Sapio Pty Ltd	ALARM MONITORING		\$ 357.43
16/02/2023	MAS494800		ALARM MONITORING - AUSTIN CLOSE MOUNT HELENA	\$ 132.00	
16/02/2023	SP226871		ATTEND SITE TO REPAIR ZONE 11 - LAKE LESCHENAULTIA	\$ 225.43	
27/02/2023	3363.11135-01	Frontline Fire & Rescue (Bluesteel	EQUIPMENT PURCHASES		\$ 3,773.35
22/02/2023	77357		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 2,204.19	
22/02/2023	77332		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - WOOROLOO VBFB	\$ 301.41	
22/02/2023	77346		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - CHIDLOW VBFB	\$ 918.28	
22/02/2023	77317		EQUIPMENT PURCHASES - PARKERVILLE VBFB	\$ 349.47	
27/02/2023	3363.11398-01	JB HI-FI Group Pty Ltd	IT HARDWARE		\$ 2,419.00
27/01/2023	BD1042016		SUPPLY APPLE IPHONE 14 PRO MAX 512GB	\$ 2,419.00	
27/02/2023	3363.11453-01	Midland Toyota (Midland 2015 Pty Ltd	VEHICLE SERVICE		\$ 555.15
14/02/2023	PI13019983		SUPPLY WIPER BLADES FOR 816MDG	\$ 55.31	
10/02/2023	JC14030323		100,000KM SERVICE ON 832MDG	\$ 499.84	
27/02/2023	3363.11578-01	Corsign WA Pty Ltd	SIGNAGE		\$ 748.00
21/02/2023	00072026		SUPPLY & DELIVER VARIOUS ROAD SIGNS	\$ 187.00	
21/02/2023	00072315		SUPPLY & DELIVER VARIOUS CUSTOM SIGNS	\$ 187.00	
21/02/2023	00072119		SUPPLY & DELIVERY GRABRAILS WITH REFLECTIVES	\$ 374.00	
27/02/2023	3363.11953-01	The Stationery Co (C Willis & D J Willis	STATIONERY		\$ 346.24
21/02/2023	168845		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 346.24	
27/02/2023	3363.11967-01	Trade West Industrial Supplies Pty	WORKSHOP CONSUMABLES		\$ 897.57
21/02/2023	94237		SUPPLY & DELIVER ASSORTED GLOVES	\$ 897.57	
27/02/2023	3363.11984-01	Access Icon Pty Ltd T/A Cascada Group	DRAINAGE PRODUCTS		\$ 3,257.65
21/02/2023	16770		SUPPLY & DELIVER DRAINAGE PRODUCTS - CHARTWELL PARK	\$ 3,257.65	
27/02/2023	3363.12078-01	Recruitwest Pty Ltd	TEMP STAFF		\$ 14,185.52
23/02/2023	C INV 586019		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 3,605.01	
23/02/2023	C INV 585967		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 1,972.53	
24/02/2023	C INV 585966		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 2,061.05	
24/02/2023	C INV 586021		TEMP STAFF - PURCHASING OFFICER & DEPOT STAFF	\$ 3,970.62	
24/02/2023	C INV 586020		TEMP STAFF - DEPOT	\$ 2,576.31	
27/02/2023	3363.12134-01	W.A. Library Supplies	LIBRARY SUPPLIES		\$ 605.10
22/02/2023	00132533-BO		LIBRARY SUPPLIES	\$ 605.10	
27/02/2023	3363.12143-01	Turf Care WA Pty Ltd	TURF SERVICES		\$ 18,678.00
23/02/2023	INV-6139		TURF RENOVATION SERVICES - HARRY RISEBOROUGH OVAL	\$ 17,600.00	
23/02/2023	INV-6140		TURF RENOVATION SERVICES - HARRY RISEBOROUGH OVAL	\$ 1,078.00	
27/02/2023	3363.12149-01	TenderLink.com	ADVERTISING		\$ 190.30
21/02/2023	MUNDAR-534503		PUBLIC TENDER ADVERTISING	\$ 190.30	
27/02/2023	3363.124-01	Sigma Chemicals	CHLORINE/POOL CHEMICALS		\$ 4,761.56
25/01/2023	165657/01		CHLORINE/POOL CHEMICALS	\$ 274.45	
25/01/2023	551548		CHLORINE/POOL CHEMICALS	\$ 66.00	
25/01/2023	165656/01		CHLORINE/POOL CHEMICALS	\$ 830.94	
25/01/2023	165660/01		CHLORINE/POOL CHEMICALS	\$ 2,380.18	
21/02/2023	552532		CHLORINE/POOL CHEMICALS	\$ 1,209.99	
27/02/2023	3363.12402-01	Grace Information & Records Managem	OFFSITE RECORDS STORAGE		\$ 2,593.13
21/02/2023	RP01340877		OFFSITE RECORDS STORAGE	\$ 2,593.13	
27/02/2023	3363.12470-01	Mr G Wood	FENCING		\$ 2,446.40
23/02/2023	IV00000001148		REPAIR FENCING - HARDY RD GLEN FORREST	\$ 2,446.40	

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27/02/2023	3363.12579-01	Mr V Crowe	LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE SERVICES		\$ 2,604.00
24/02/2023	2110		LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE SERVICES	\$ 456.00	
24/02/2023	2109		LANDSCAPE SERVICES	\$ 288.00	
24/02/2023	2108		LANDSCAPE SERVICES	\$ 384.00	
24/02/2023	2114		LANDSCAPE SERVICES	\$ 360.00	
24/02/2023	2113		LANDSCAPE SERVICES	\$ 288.00	
24/02/2023	2115		LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE SERVICES & TIP FEES	\$ 828.00	
27/02/2023	3363.12640-01	Officeworks Ltd	STATIONERY		\$ 297.46
23/02/2023	605812862		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 63.74	
23/02/2023	605644962		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 233.72	
27/02/2023	3363.127-01	Volich Waste Contractors Pty Ltd	REFUSE CONTRACT		\$ 466.02
10/02/2023	00006343		WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES - LAKE LESCHENULTIA	\$ 466.02	
27/02/2023	3363.12794-01	Mount Helena Hardware	HARDWARE ITEMS		\$ 253.28
21/02/2023	101078515		SUPPLY OF ASSORTED HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 27.50	
21/02/2023	101078381		SUPPLY OF ASSORTED HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 49.89	
21/02/2023	101078772		SUPPLY OF ASSORTED HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 34.38	
21/02/2023	101079540		SUPPLY OF ASSORTED HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 110.77	
22/02/2023	101081205		SUPPLY OF ASSORTED HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 30.74	
27/02/2023	3363.12898-01	Accredit Building Surveying & Construct	BUILDING SURVEYING		\$ 495.00
24/02/2023	4944/11		BUILDING SURVEYING - NICHOL STREET MUNDARING	\$ 495.00	
27/02/2023	3363.12899-01	NAPA (A Division of GPC Asia Pacific	PARTS		\$ 221.95
16/02/2023	1320272231		SUPPLY AIR FILTERS FOR P724	\$ 112.20	
16/02/2023	1320272215		SUPPLY OIL FILTER FOR P4800	\$ 34.65	
22/02/2023	1320272273		SUPPLY OF WORKSHOP CONSUMABLES	\$ 75.10	
27/02/2023	3363.12939-01	Midland Timber (Big River Group T/A	TIMBER		\$ 858.14
14/02/2023	602-682461A		SUPPLY & DELIVER TIMBER FOR DIVE BOARDS - BILGOMAN	\$ 858.14	
27/02/2023	3363.12951-01	Traffic Force	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES		\$ 55,567.84
16/02/2023	00032459		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - WORKS CREWS	\$ 2,486.06	
17/02/2023	00032373		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - EASON/THROSSELL	\$ 644.53	
17/02/2023	00032286		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - EASON/THROSSELL	\$ 4,479.34	
21/02/2023	00032256		PREPARE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN - BROOKING ROAD	\$ 439.40	
14/02/2023	00032457		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - TREE MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,324.86	
14/02/2023	00032458		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE	\$ 1,120.32	
07/02/2023	00032417		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - TREE MAINTENANCE	\$ 5,086.05	
10/02/2023	00032460		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - CHARTWELL PARK	\$ 1,392.19	
03/02/2023	00032420		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - CHARTWELL PARK DRAINAGE	\$ 2,210.68	
07/02/2023	00032374		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - CHARTWELL PARK DRAINAGE	\$ 1,598.43	
07/02/2023	00032418		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,526.82	
07/02/2023	00032419		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - WORKS CREWS	\$ 2,241.54	
07/02/2023	00032283		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - TREE MAINTENANCE	\$ 7,743.47	
07/02/2023	00032371		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - TREE MAINTENANCE	\$ 9,332.91	
01/02/2023	00032285		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - WORKS CREWS	\$ 2,649.09	
01/02/2023	00032372		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - WORKS CREWS	\$ 6,643.07	
01/02/2023	00032284		TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SERVICES - DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,649.08	
27/02/2023	3363.12984-01	A.J.L Plumbing and Gas Pty Ltd (ATF The	PLUMBING SERVICES		\$ 2,461.70
21/02/2023	AJL11262		PLUMBING SERVICES - DARLINGTON HALL	\$ 160.00	
21/02/2023	AJL11261		PLUMBING SERVICES - MUNDARING MENS SHED	\$ 160.00	
21/02/2023	AJL11324		PLUMBING SERVICES - SCULPTURE PARK PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 1,243.00	
25/02/2023	AJL11237		PLUMBING SERVICES - HARRY RISEBOROUGH PAVILION	\$ 700.70	
23/02/2023	AJL11275		PLUMBING SERVICES - SCULPTURE PARK PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 198.00	
27/02/2023	3363.13097-01	Survey Civil	DRAINAGE WORKS		\$ 2,959.00
24/02/2023	206		DRAINAGE WORKS - BROWNFIELD DR SWAN VIEW	\$ 2,959.00	
27/02/2023	3363.13208-01	Fire Protection Services WA Pty Ltd	MAINTENANCE		\$ 1,127.54
25/02/2023	9735		FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAINTENANCE - BOYA COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 478.96	
25/02/2023	9736		FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAINTENANCE - MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 518.87	
25/02/2023	9742		FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES MAINTENANCE - SHIRE ADMIN	\$ 129.71	
27/02/2023	3363.13368-01	Midland Nissan and Isuzu (Idom Midland	PARTS		\$ 85.91
14/02/2023	62211920		PARTS FOR 060MDG	\$ 85.91	

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27/02/2023	3363.13490-01	Humanness (MKI Group Pty Ltd T/As:)	DESIGN FEES/COSTS		\$ 1,375.00
24/02/2023	INV-H0223001		WEBSITE CONSULTANCY SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2023	\$ 1,375.00	
27/02/2023	3363.13540-01	ELM (WA) Pty Ltd	MOWING SERVICES		\$ 11,553.11
22/02/2023	INV-4486		MOWING SERVICES - JANUARY 2023	\$ 11,553.11	
27/02/2023	3363.13715-01	Ensign (Ensign Services (Aust.) Pty Ltd	SAFETY EQUIPMENT		\$ 361.24
21/02/2023	6321670		SAFETY MATS & TEA TOWELS	\$ 361.24	
27/02/2023	3363.13757-01	Superloop (Operations) Pty Ltd	SUBSCRIPTIONS		\$ 110.00
24/02/2023	AINV032590		NETWORK & DATA SERVICES	\$ 110.00	
27/02/2023	3363.138-01	Sonic HealthPlus Pty Ltd	MEDICAL EXAMINATION		\$ 481.80
02/02/2023	2839215		PRE-EMPLOYMENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION	\$ 240.90	
03/02/2023	2843461		PRE-EMPLOYMENT MEDICAL EXAMINATION	\$ 240.90	
27/02/2023	3363.13866-01	Booktopia Pty Ltd	BOOKS		\$ 1,444.88
21/02/2023	18223495		BOOK STOCK - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 287.13	
21/02/2023	18223819		BOOK STOCK - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 475.98	
21/02/2023	17689323		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 471.59	
22/02/2023	16528594-6		BOOK STOCK - KSP LIBRARY	\$ 11.90	
23/02/2023	18872744		BOOK STOCK - AFM LIBRARY	\$ 198.28	
27/02/2023	3363.14013-01	Eastern Hills Chainsaws & Mowers Pty	EQUIPMENT REPAIRS		\$ 459.80
02/02/2023	49946 #4		SUPPLY VARIOUS SMALL PARTS - LAKE LESCHENAULTIA	\$ 381.00	
21/02/2023	49944 #5		SUPPLY CHAIN TENSION KIT	\$ 43.80	
22/02/2023	49959 #5		SUPPLY OF VARIOUS SMALL PARTS FOR WORKSHOP	\$ 35.00	
27/02/2023	3363.14051-01	Sweeping Services Australia Pty Ltd	STREET SWEEPING SERVICES		\$ 8,362.13
24/02/2023	INV-0285		SUPPLY OF STREET SWEEPING SERVICES	\$ 8,362.13	
27/02/2023	3363.14060-01	Focus Coaching & Solutions (Jacquel	TRAINING		\$ 4,600.00
23/02/2023	3/2023		PROVIDE "A RIPPLE IN TIME" WORKSHOP - MIDVALE HUB	\$ 2,400.00	
23/02/2023	4/2023		PROVIDE "TOGETHER WE RISE" WORKSHOP - MIDVALE HUB	\$ 2,200.00	
27/02/2023	3363.14243-01	Western Tree Recyclers (Craneswest	STREET TREE MAINTENANCE		\$ 19,283.92
22/02/2023	00003960		GREEN WASTE PROCESSING SERVICES	\$ 13,139.50	
21/02/2023	00003951		GREEN WASTE PROCESSING SERVICES	\$ 1,672.15	
21/02/2023	00003950		GREEN WASTE PROCESSING SERVICES	\$ 4,472.27	
27/02/2023	3363.14394-01	Creative Catering Trust (The Trustee	CATERING		\$ 1,013.60
23/02/2023	INV-2029		CATERING - ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING ON 14/02/2023	\$ 1,013.60	
27/02/2023	3363.14429-01	JDSi Consulting Engineers (JDSi	DESIGN FEES/COSTS		\$ 7,310.88
23/02/2023	4-11025		CONSULTANCY DESIGN - RESERVOIR STREET UPGRADE	\$ 5,935.88	
23/02/2023	6-11016		DESIGN ROSEDALE ROAD SHARED PATH	\$ 1,375.00	
27/02/2023	3363.14435-01	Lou's Kitchen (Knights, Louisa Jayne	PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE		\$ 346.00
22/02/2023	INV-0219		CATERING - AWARD PRESENTATION LAKE LESCHENAULTIA	\$ 140.00	
21/02/2023	INV-0218		PROVISIONS FOR REFLECTIONS CAFE	\$ 206.00	
27/02/2023	3363.14496-01	Tyrepower Mundaring (The Trustee for	TYRES & REPAIRS		\$ 2,297.00
23/02/2023	115174		REPAIR TYRE ON 029MDG	\$ 35.00	
21/02/2023	115173		SUPPLY & FIT 2 X NEW TYRE ON 059MDG	\$ 394.00	
21/02/2023	115131		SUPPLY & FIT 4 X NEW TYRE ON 035MDG	\$ 1,868.00	
27/02/2023	3363.14505-01	1300Tempence (Ready Industries Pty	FENCING		\$ 1,724.80
21/02/2023	539556		HIRE OF SOLAR SITE CAMERAS - COPPIN RD TRANSFER STATION	\$ 862.40	
21/02/2023	540018		HIRE OF SOLAR SITE CAMERAS - MATHIESON RD TRANSFER STATION	\$ 862.40	
27/02/2023	3363.14583-01	Fleet Network Pty Ltd	NOVATED LEASE		\$ 762.85
22/02/2023	118256		NOVATED LEASE CHARGES 15/02/2023	\$ 762.85	
27/02/2023	3363.14644-01	Uniting Global Pty Ltd	CLEANING		\$ 71,929.39
23/02/2023	INV-0344		CLEANING SERVICES - 01/01/2023 TO 29/01/2023	\$ 71,571.89	
24/02/2023	INV-0310		CLEANING SERVICES - BOYA COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 357.50	
27/02/2023	3363.14652-01	HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		\$ 4,339.37
03/02/2023	1527667		PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - LEASE VARIATION 804 ELMSFIELD RD	\$ 4,339.37	
27/02/2023	3363.14793-01	Award Contracting Pty Ltd	SERVICE LOCATER		\$ 3,300.00
24/02/2023	00029196		LOCATE UNDERGROUND SERVICES - NORRIS & PIONEER PARK	\$ 3,300.00	
27/02/2023	3363.14897-01	Cleargard Australia Pty Ltd	MAINTENANCE		\$ 4,400.00
24/02/2023	12114		REMOVE ANTI-GRAFFITI FILM - BOYA COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 4,400.00	

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27/02/2023	3363.14900-01	Pool Robotics Perth (The trustee for	EQUIPMENT REPAIRS		\$ 1,010.90
14/02/2023	23-00000080		REPAIR POOL CLEANER	\$ 1,010.90	
27/02/2023	3363.14938-01	Saxton Speakers Bureau Pty Ltd	EQUIPMENT HIRE		\$ 1,814.45
24/02/2023	SI-49701		SPEAKER FOR NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK EVENT - 50% DEPOSIT	\$ 1,814.45	
27/02/2023	3363.14939-01	Eurofins ARL Pty Ltd	ANALYTICAL EXPENSES		\$ 121.00
10/02/2023	747895		ASBESTOS SAMPLE REPORT - SCOTT STREET BOYA	\$ 60.50	
10/02/2023	748546		ASBESTOS SAMPLE REPORT - BALFOUR RD SWAN VIEW	\$ 60.50	
27/02/2023	3363.1674-01	Midland Cement Materials	CONCRETE PRODUCTS		\$ 2,959.00
21/02/2023	6174844		SUPPLY & DELIVER STORM WATER PIPES	\$ 2,585.00	
21/02/2023	6175365		SUPPLY STORM WATER PIPE	\$ 374.00	
27/02/2023	3363.1689-01	Compsys Pty Ltd T/A Harmony Software	SUBSCRIPTIONS		\$ 780.00
23/02/2023	1-11346		SOFTWARE SUBSCRIPTION - JANUARY 2023	\$ 780.00	
27/02/2023	3363.1955-01	Cleanaway	RECYCLING FEES		\$ 80,595.41
17/02/2023	21720611		RECYCLING FEES	\$ 80,595.41	
27/02/2023	3363.197-01	Konica Minolta Business Solutions Aust	PHOTOCOPIER PRINTING		\$ 1,897.97
16/02/2023	0401000062000123		PHOTOCOPIER PRINTING	\$ 1,897.97	
27/02/2023	3363.21-01	Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council	TRANSFER STATION FEES		\$ 45,527.72
24/02/2023	EMRC49255		TRANSFER STATION FEES	\$ 45,527.72	
27/02/2023	3363.2163-01	Asphaltch Pty Ltd	ASPHALT		\$ 40,506.02
16/02/2023	17590		SUPPLY ASPHALT	\$ 970.20	
24/02/2023	17608		ASPHALT WORKS - KOOKABURRA PLACE DARLINGTON	\$ 39,535.82	
27/02/2023	3363.218-01	Security & Key Distributors	SECURITY EXPENSES		\$ 4,352.56
21/02/2023	92670		SUPPLY & DELIVER PADLOCK & KEYS - PARKERVILLE HALL	\$ 193.94	
21/02/2023	92710		ATTEND SITE & REPLACE CYLINDER DEADBOLTS - BROWN PARK	\$ 473.64	
21/02/2023	92735		SUPPLY & DELIVER 5 X BILOCK KEYS - LAKE LESCHENAULTIA	\$ 182.42	
21/02/2023	92711		ATTEND SITE & REPLACE BROKEN LOCK - CHIDLOW PAVILION	\$ 137.50	
21/02/2023	92786		SUPPLY & DELIVER HINGES & BOLTS - DARLINGTON PAVILION TOILETS	\$ 591.38	
21/02/2023	92787		SUPPLY & DELIVER KEY SWITCH WITH BILOCK CYLINDER - ADMIN BUILDING	\$ 1,270.44	
23/02/2023	92597		SUPPLY & INSTALL TOILET LOCKS - CHIDLOW PROFESSIONAL ROOMS	\$ 959.21	
20/01/2023	92766		ATTEND SITE & REPLACE DOOR HANDLE & LOCK - BILGOMAN AQUATIC CENTRE	\$ 346.13	
27/01/2023	92769		SUPPLY & DELIVER BILOCK CAM LOCK - MUNDARING REC GROUND PAVILION	\$ 197.90	
27/02/2023	3363.234-01	Coles Supermarkets Australia Pty Ltd	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 649.96
21/02/2023	161941512		FOOD & CONSUMABLES FOR CHILDREN - MECPC	\$ 649.96	
27/02/2023	3363.2625-01	Stewart & Heaton Clothing Co	UNIFORMS		\$ 1,731.00
22/02/2023	SIN-3664633		UNIFORMS - CHIDLOW VBFB	\$ 236.09	
22/02/2023	SIN-3664988		UNIFORMS - SAWYERS VALLEY VBFB	\$ 33.00	
22/02/2023	SIN-3665129		UNIFORMS - DARLINGTON VBFB	\$ 82.50	
23/02/2023	SIN-3667365		UNIFORMS - ALL BRIGADE COTTON T SHIRTS	\$ 1,379.41	
27/02/2023	3363.280-01	Winc Australia Pty Limited	STATIONERY		\$ 1,718.56
21/02/2023	9041345635		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 22.33	
21/02/2023	9041323737		STATIONERY ITEMS & COFFEE	\$ 328.62	
21/02/2023	9041336909		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 16.72	
21/02/2023	9041324218		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 326.62	
21/02/2023	9041462782		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 496.11	
22/02/2023	9041514661		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 525.44	
23/02/2023	9041521950		STATIONERY ITEMS	\$ 2.72	
27/02/2023	3363.2802-01	Holton Connor Architects & Planners	ARCHITECT SERVICES		\$ 2,295.70
24/02/2023	00006293		VARIATION - ARCHITECTS SERVICES STONEVILLE VBFB	\$ 2,295.70	
27/02/2023	3363.307-01	McLeods Barristers and Solicitors	LEGAL MATTER		\$ 2,283.32
14/02/2023	128083		LEGAL MATTER 50329 - ASBESTOS FENCE	\$ 764.77	
14/02/2023	128242		LEGAL MATTER 50470 - UNAUTHORISED ADDITIONS	\$ 479.60	
14/02/2023	128241		LEGAL MATTER 50355 - BUSH FIRE ACT PROSECUTION	\$ 1,038.95	
27/02/2023	3363.314-01	Landgate	TITLE SEARCHES		\$ 736.98
21/02/2023	1251409		ONLINE TITLE SEARCHES	\$ 28.20	
23/02/2023	381383		GROSS RENTAL VALUATIONS CHARGEABLE	\$ 708.78	
27/02/2023	3363.3180-01	Battery World Midland	BATTERIES		\$ 299.00
21/02/2023	#IN6031762652		SUPPLY BATTERY FOR P4809	\$ 299.00	

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27/02/2023	3363.33-01	Boral Construction Materials Group	ASPHALT		\$ 169.49
21/02/2023	WA17256649		ASPHALT	\$ 169.49	
27/02/2023	3363.336-01	Fasta Courier Service	COURIER SERVICES		\$ 591.79
24/02/2023	277849		COURIER SERVICES	\$ 591.79	
27/02/2023	3363.360-01	Eastern Hills Veterinary Centre	MICROCHIPPING		\$ 40.00
03/02/2023	2744103		MICROCHIPPING	\$ 40.00	
27/02/2023	3363.375-01	TOLL IPEC PRIORITY (IPEC Pty Ltd T/As	COURIER SERVICES		\$ 30.95
22/02/2023	0556-S364420		COURIER SERVICES	\$ 30.95	
27/02/2023	3363.381-01	Mundaring Electrical Contracting Service	ELECTRICAL SERVICES		\$ 1,910.70
23/02/2023	7520		ELECTRICAL SERVICES - MECPC	\$ 1,910.70	
27/02/2023	3363.3852-01	Cemeteries & Crematoria Assoc Of WA	REGISTRATION		\$ 215.00
21/02/2023	1478		REGISTRATION FOR 2023 CCAWA SEMINAR	\$ 215.00	
27/02/2023	3363.388-01	Bunzl Ltd	CLEANING SUPPLIES		\$ 5,105.05
01/02/2023	X328055		CLEANING SUPPLIES - LAKE LESCHENAUTIA	\$ 1,979.04	
01/02/2023	X319877		PAPER PRODUCTS - DEPOT	\$ 862.94	
01/02/2023	X325209		PAPER PRODUCTS - DEPOT	\$ 289.76	
01/02/2023	X314942		PAPER PRODUCTS - DEPOT	\$ 1,796.65	
02/02/2023	X329724		CLEANING SUPPLIES - LAKE LESCHENAUTIA	\$ 176.66	
27/02/2023	3363.397-01	J. Blackwood & Son Pty Ltd	PARTS		\$ 1,760.83
21/02/2023	SI03627771		SUPPLY ASSORTED ITEMS FOR STORES	\$ 66.12	
21/02/2023	SI03637686		SUPPLY ASSORTED ITEMS FOR STORES	\$ 41.80	
21/02/2023	SI03683376		SUPPLY ASSORTED ITEMS FOR STORES	\$ 84.00	
19/01/2023	SI03555145		SUPPLY ASSORTED MARK SPRAY PAINTS	\$ 194.30	
21/02/2023	SI03699726		SUPPLY ASSORTED ITEMS FOR STORES	\$ 269.60	
21/02/2023	SI03719121		SUPPLY ASSORTED ITEMS FOR STORES	\$ 487.78	
21/02/2023	SI03752417		SUPPLY ASSORTED ITEMS FOR STORES	\$ 617.23	
27/02/2023	3363.4252-01	Boya Equipment Pty Ltd	PARTS		\$ 88.70
22/02/2023	109774/01		SUPPLY PARTS FOR P280	\$ 88.70	
27/02/2023	3363.4282-01	Institute of Public Works Engineering	REGISTRATION		\$ 850.00
23/02/2023	022023-0072-0070		REGISTRATION - IPWEA STATE CONFERENCE	\$ 850.00	
27/02/2023	3363.4592-01	ELAN Energy Matrix Pty Ltd T/A Tyre	TYRES & REPAIRS		\$ 690.69
22/02/2023	021790		COLLECTION OF USED TYRES FROM OPERATIONS CENTRE	\$ 690.69	
27/02/2023	3363.4749-01	Pure Air Filters	PARTS		\$ 457.60
21/02/2023	00014363		SUPPLY AIR FILTERS FOR P286, P297 & P294	\$ 181.50	
21/02/2023	00014342		SUPPLY AIR FILTERS FOR P264, P258, P279 & P273	\$ 276.10	
27/02/2023	3363.480-01	Echo Newspaper	ADVERTISING		\$ 2,057.00
21/02/2023	00029956		ADVERTISING	\$ 1,397.00	
21/02/2023	00030049		ADVERTISING	\$ 330.00	
27/01/2023	00030135		ADVERTISING	\$ 330.00	
27/02/2023	3363.550-01	Eastern Hills Senior High School	CONTRIBUTION		\$ 3,183.04
24/02/2023	10098		CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS WATER & POWER CONSUMPTION	\$ 3,183.04	
27/02/2023	3363.5558-01	Global Workwear Investments Pty Ltd	WORK CLOTHES		\$ 1,314.81
27/01/2023	BM52316.D1		WORK CLOTHES - KSP LIBRARY STAFF	\$ 714.00	
21/02/2023	MD40654.D1		WORK CLOTHES - RANGER UNIFORMS	\$ 115.16	
21/02/2023	MD40749.D1		WORK CLOTHES - SUPERVISOR PARKS	\$ 485.65	
27/02/2023	3363.6419-01	Hills Fresh (WA) Pty Ltd	CATERING		\$ 50.00
24/02/2023	00008487		CATERING - AAN VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU MORNING TEA	\$ 50.00	
27/02/2023	3363.68-01	The Watershed Water Systems	RETICULATION PARTS		\$ 2,071.57
16/02/2023	10231483		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 149.80	
16/02/2023	10231570		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 129.07	
16/02/2023	10231571		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 32.00	
16/02/2023	10231621		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 56.70	
21/02/2023	10231413		RETICULATION PARTS	\$ 1,704.00	
27/02/2023	3363.6879-01	Chidlow Chatter	ADVERTISING		\$ 130.00
24/02/2023	00005336		ADVERTISING	\$ 130.00	

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27/02/2023	3363.7230-01	Boss Bobcat & Truck Service	EARTHWORKS		\$ 12,492.20
24/02/2023	11023		CARTAGE & EARTHWORKS - HARMONY PARK	\$ 6,299.53	
16/02/2023	11123		SUPPLY BRICKIES SAND	\$ 3,300.00	
23/02/2023	10923		REMOVE DEBRIS & CLEAN ALL DRAINS MUNDARING OVAL	\$ 2,892.67	
27/02/2023	3363.7318-01	Pirtek Midland	PARTS		\$ 104.12
21/02/2023	MD-T00048929		SUPPLY OF ASSORTED HYDRAULIC HOSES & FITTINGS	\$ 104.12	
27/02/2023	3363.7332-01	Planrite (Plant Force Investments Pty	TUBE STOCK		\$ 1,147.58
24/02/2023	00044601		SUPPLY ASSORTED TUBE STOCK	\$ 1,147.58	
27/02/2023	3363.7388-01	Doors Doors Doors Pty Ltd	BUILDING SUPPLIES & MATERIALS		\$ 2,387.00
06/02/2023	00057064		SERVICE & REPAIR ROLLER DOORS - MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 1,512.50	
21/02/2023	00057398		SERVICE OPERABLE WALL - BOYA COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 874.50	
27/02/2023	3363.7426-01	Scoob's Dingo Service	FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE		\$ 4,044.15
24/02/2023	2691		CLEAN UP & SWEEP CHIDLOW TENNIS COURTS	\$ 846.45	
24/02/2023	2690		FOOTPATH SWEEPING/MAINTENANCE	\$ 3,197.70	
27/02/2023	3363.7489-01	Sparks Refrigeration & Airconditioning	MAINTENANCE		\$ 1,958.00
21/02/2023	INV-2743		REPLACE PLENUM IN EVAPORATIVE AIR-CONDITIONER - HOSCA	\$ 1,067.00	
21/02/2023	INV-2742		SERVICE 4 X AIR-CONDITIONER UNITS - MUNDARING LIBRARY	\$ 264.00	
21/02/2023	INV-2739		REPAIR LEAKING FRIDGE - BOYA COMMUNITY CENTRE	\$ 264.00	
21/02/2023	INV-2741		CHECK FAULTY AIR-CONDITIONER UNIT - HUB OF THE HILLS	\$ 231.00	
21/02/2023	INV-2740		CHECK FAULTY AIR-CONDITIONER UNIT - MUNDARING PAVILION	\$ 132.00	
27/02/2023	3363.7568-01	Swan Towing	TOWING SERVICES		\$ 165.00
23/02/2023	00288386		TOWING SERVICES	\$ 165.00	
27/02/2023	3363.7650-01	Founder Enterprises Pty Ltd T/As Fortus	PARTS		\$ 2,998.34
23/02/2023	INVFG0034248		CUTTING BLADE, PLOW NUTS & BOLTS FOR P294 & P285	\$ 2,998.34	
27/02/2023	3363.80-01	Bunnings Group Limited	HARDWARE		\$ 758.04
21/02/2023	2440/01245865		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 80.72	
21/02/2023	2440/01245867		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 109.59	
21/02/2023	2440/00129885		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 175.10	
31/01/2023	2440/01185676		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 168.43	
24/02/2023	2440/99814011		HARDWARE ITEMS	\$ 224.20	
27/02/2023	3363.810-01	Royal Life Saving Society Western Aust	POOL SUPPLIES		\$ 154.00
24/02/2023	196770		WATCH AROUND WATER WRISTBANDS	\$ 154.00	
27/02/2023	3363.8545-01	Sankey Plumbing Service	PLUMBING		\$ 6,655.00
23/02/2023	5593		PLUMBING SERVICES - MORGAN JOHN MORGAN PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 539.00	
23/02/2023	5587		PLUMBING SERVICES - MUNDARING REC GROUND PAVILION	\$ 231.00	
23/02/2023	5588		PLUMBING SERVICES - PARKERVILLE OVAL PAVILION	\$ 165.00	
23/02/2023	5589		PLUMBING SERVICES - GLEN FORREST PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 297.00	
23/02/2023	5591		PLUMBING SERVICES - MT HELENA PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 132.00	
23/02/2023	5592		PLUMBING SERVICES - MORGAN JOHN MORGAN PUBLIC TOILETS	\$ 693.00	
23/02/2023	5594		PLUMBING SERVICES - GLEN FORREST STATION MASTERS HOUSE	\$ 220.00	
23/02/2023	5595		PLUMBING SERVICES - HUB OF THE HILLS	\$ 407.00	
23/02/2023	5597		PLUMBING SERVICES - CHIDLOW REC GROUND PAVILION	\$ 165.00	
24/02/2023	5599		PLUMBING SERVICES - GLEN FORREST VBFB	\$ 1,408.00	
24/02/2023	5598		PLUMBING SERVICES - STONEVILLE VBFB	\$ 165.00	
25/02/2023	5596		PLUMBING SERVICES - SAWYERS VALLEY OVAL CHANGEROOM	\$ 968.00	
25/02/2023	5602		PLUMBING SERVICES - MUNDARING ARENA	\$ 968.00	
25/02/2023	5603		PLUMBING SERVICES - ADMIN BUILDING	\$ 165.00	
25/02/2023	5604		PLUMBING SERVICES - ADMIN BUILDING	\$ 132.00	
27/02/2023	3363.8584-01	Great Sand Supplies Trust	SAND		\$ 371.21
14/02/2023	00009106		SUPPLY SCREENED YELLOW FILL SAND	\$ 316.32	
14/02/2023	00009085		SUPPLY UNSCREENED YELLOW FILL SAND	\$ 54.89	
27/02/2023	3363.8611-01	Brownes Foods Operations Pty Ltd	KIOSK SUPPLIES		\$ 304.74
24/02/2023	17015593		KIOSK SUPPLIES	\$ 304.74	
27/02/2023	3363.8976-01	Kool Line Electrical & Refrigeration	ELECTRICAL SERVICES		\$ 1,582.00
23/02/2023	00127612		ELECTRICAL SERVICES - STREET LIGHT STONEVILLE RD MUNDARING	\$ 1,582.00	

MONTHLY LIST OF ACCOUNTS PAID
FEBRUARY 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
27/02/2023	3363.9596-01	Brice Pest Management	PEST CONTROL		\$ 550.00
23/02/2023	IV05382		PEST CONTROL - SHIRE DOG POUND	\$ 264.00	
24/02/2023	IV05388		TERMITE TREATMENT - GLEN RD DARLINGTON	\$ 154.00	
24/02/2023	IV05387		TERMITE TREATMENT - OWEN RD DARLINGTON	\$ 132.00	
27/02/2023	3363.969-01	Slater Gartrell Sports	SPORTING EQUIPMENT		\$ 283.80
24/02/2023	SG56798/01		SUPPLY ELECTRONIC STARTER GUN & WAIST AMPLIFIER	\$ 283.80	
27/02/2023	3364.13653-01	Mr B F Smeeton	REFUND		\$ 330.00
27/02/2023	1423841		HALL BOND REFUND	\$ 330.00	
27/02/2023	3364.13658-01	Ms K Nissen	REFUND		\$ 44.00
27/02/2023	1402304		KEY BOND REFUND	\$ 44.00	
27/02/2023	3364.14700-01	Mundaring Netball Club	REFUND		\$ 65.00
27/02/2023	1441737		KEY BOND REFUND	\$ 65.00	
27/02/2023	3364.14950-01	J Fondacaro	REFUND		\$ 500.00
17/02/2023	1437772		HALL BOND REFUND	\$ 500.00	
27/02/2023	3364.14953-01	Mr T R Simpson	REFUND		\$ 65.00
24/02/2023	1438456		KEY BOND REFUND	\$ 65.00	
27/02/2023	3364.14965-01	Mr P H Brazier	REFUND		\$ 330.00
24/02/2023	1437786		HALL BOND REFUND	\$ 330.00	
27/02/2023	3364.14969-01	Forrest Darlings CWA	REFUND		\$ 110.00
27/02/2023	1436880		HALL BOND REFUND	\$ 110.00	
27/02/2023	3364.14970-01	Mrs L J Vagg	DEPOSIT		\$ 55.00
27/02/2023	869113		STANDPIPE KEY DEPOSIT	\$ 55.00	
27/02/2023	3364.254-01	Mundaring Arts Centre Inc	REFUND		\$ 110.00
24/02/2023	1426333		HALL BOND REFUND	\$ 110.00	
27/02/2023	3364.6158-01	The Darlington Club Incorporated	REFUND		\$ 88.00
24/02/2023	1414671		KEY BOND REFUND	\$ 44.00	
24/02/2023	1414671		KEY BOND REFUND	\$ 44.00	
27/02/2023	3364.7531-01	Mundaring Community Mens Shed Inc	REFUND		\$ 330.00
27/02/2023	1434048		HALL BOND REFUND	\$ 330.00	
02/02/2023	3370.12516-01	PayClear Services Pty Ltd (Superchoice)	SUPERANNUATION-JAN2023		\$ 336,446.53
01/02/2023	Jan2023-55		SUPERANNUATION-JAN2023	\$ 336,446.53	
Total Electronic Funds Transfers From Municipal Account				\$ 2,874,442.07	\$ 2,874,442.07
Payments By Electronic Funds Transfer (Payroll)					
1/02/2023	PP16/23 cycle 1	Pay Summary		\$ 465,518.58	
1/02/2023	PP16/23 cycle 2	Pay Summary		\$ 91,087.87	
15/02/2023	PP17/23 cycle 1	Pay Summary		\$ 449,590.18	
15/02/2023	PP17/23 cycle 2	Pay Summary		\$ 94,168.50	
Total Payroll Payments Direct From Municipal Account				\$ 1,100,365.13	
Payment By Direct Debit From Municipal Account					
		Bendigo - Merch Bank Fees		\$ 3,727.72	
		Bendigo - Direct Debit Fees (incl FTS)		\$ 531.38	
		Commonwealth Bank - Bpoint Fees		\$ 2,405.40	
		NAB - Purchase Cards		\$ 18,319.37	
		Fleetcare - Fuel Payments		\$ 4,823.26	
		ICMSFE		\$ 1,057.30	
		HP Financial Services - Equipment Lease		\$ 22,531.94	
		Konica Minolta - Printer Lease		\$ 4,329.72	
		WA Treasury Corporation		\$ 91,888.80	
		RMS - Lakes Monthly License Fee		\$ 188.10	
		RMS - Monthly SMS Fees		\$ 35.96	
		Qikkids - Fees		\$ 62.96	
		WEX Motorpass		\$ 346.18	
		Debitsuccess		\$ 311.83	
		Windcave - Merchant Fees		\$ 194.15	
Total Electronic Fund Payments Direct From Municipal Account				\$ 150,754.07	

NAB Purchase Card Payments List for February 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Card User</u>
28-Jan-23	Campaign Monitor	Library bulk email newsletter	\$ 140.98	Ms G Evans
30-Jan-23	JB Hi-Fi Group Pty Ltd	Quiet Zone supplies	\$ 301.87	Mrs P Heath
31-Jan-23	Campaign Monitor	Bulk eNewsletter What's On February - Visitor Centre	\$ 22.65	Ms B M Beale
31-Jan-23	Officeworks	Educational documentation supplies - MECPC	\$ 428.00	Ms S Harlow
01-Feb-23	Good Reading Magazine	Magazine subscription - 2 years	\$ 205.00	Ms H McKissock
01-Feb-23	Kmart 1052	Resources for babies room - MECPC	\$ 97.00	Ms S Harlow
01-Feb-23	Big W Midland Gate	Resources for rooms - MECPC	\$ 11.00	Ms S Harlow
01-Feb-23	Subway Swan view	Catering - Cultural Men's Group Language workshop	\$ 146.00	Ms R B McAllister
01-Feb-23	The Wetlands Centre Cockburn	Wetland and Water Quality Seminar	\$ 300.00	Mr D L O'Brien
02-Feb-23	WA Return Recycle Renew	Supply 50 x 50pk Containers for Change Bags	\$ 1,279.15	Mrs J N Dutton
02-Feb-23	Kmart 1282	Crockery and kitchenware - MECPC	\$ 112.50	Ms S Harlow
02-Feb-23	Department of Transport	Plate change from 1HUT625 to 815MDG	\$ 18.50	Mrs J N Dutton
03-Feb-23	Officeworks 0608	Work Mobile phone cover - SC & PC Middle Swan	\$ 30.60	Ms R B McAllister
03-Feb-23	Australia Post Centrepoint Midland	Post bags and stamps - postage for workbooks Midvale	\$ 131.92	Mrs J A Pearce
03-Feb-23	Everbloom Garden Centre	Gifts for Celebrating Community Event	\$ 236.00	Mrs K D White
03-Feb-23	Australia Post Mundaring	Gift Card - Employee 10 Years - Admin Officer Children's Services	\$ 255.95	Ms A C Fernandez
06-Feb-23	Canva	Canva subscription	\$ 167.88	Mr C M Cuthbert
07-Feb-23	Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club Inc.	CPR Training for 16 participants - MECPC Childcare	\$ 1,056.00	Mrs S E Broad
07-Feb-23	Woolworths Midvale	Food - MECPC Childcare	\$ 20.40	Mrs S E Broad
07-Feb-23	Coles 0330	Refreshments for public event - KSP Library & AFM Library	\$ 44.80	Ms G Evans
07-Feb-23	Vistaprint Australia Pty Limited	Business Cards - Coordinator Waste & Fleet	\$ 42.98	Ms A E Douglas
07-Feb-23	Department of Transport	Plate change from 809MDG to 1HUU066	\$ 30.50	Mrs J N Dutton
07-Feb-23	Officeworks	Course materials TINK Aboriginal families - Midvale Hub	\$ 111.60	Mrs G L Crosse
08-Feb-23	Planning Institute of Australia	Refund - Conference Registration - Coordinator Strategic Planning	REFUND -\$ 315.00	Mr M R Luzi
08-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Summer of Entertainment Facebook Boost	\$ 5.00	Mrs K D White
08-Feb-23	Coles 0398	Catering - Library Lovers Day promotion	\$ 63.40	Ms G Evans
08-Feb-23	JB Hi-Fi Group Pty Ltd	DVD stock - KSP Library	\$ 88.89	Ms A L Rowe
08-Feb-23	JB Hi-Fi Group Pty Ltd	DVD stock - AFM Library	\$ 208.80	Ms A L Rowe
08-Feb-23	JB Hi-Fi Group Pty Ltd	DVD stock - KSP Library	\$ 109.91	Ms A L Rowe
08-Feb-23	Mt Helena Hardware	Hardware Items - Mundaring Hardcourts Building Maintenance	\$ 70.92	Mr J M Neale
08-Feb-23	Store DJ Online	Audio Recorder for Council Chambers	\$ 309.00	Mr R J Grieves
09-Feb-23	Seek Limited	Job Advertisement - Grader Operator	\$ 825.00	Mrs J N Dutton
09-Feb-23	Coles 0330	Catering - Team Building Exercise	\$ 19.25	Mrs J N Dutton
09-Feb-23	Miss Maud Midland	Catering - Community event - SC & PC Middle Swan	\$ 154.45	Ms R B McAllister
09-Feb-23	Woolworths Midvale	Food - MECPC Childcare	\$ 13.90	Mrs S E Broad
09-Feb-23	Baby Bunting Midland	Equipment for babies room - MECPC	\$ 129.00	Ms S Harlow
09-Feb-23	Morphing	Resources for children - MECPC	\$ 415.64	Ms S Harlow
09-Feb-23	Target 5069	Resources for children - MECPC	\$ 36.00	Ms S Harlow
09-Feb-23	Kmart 1052	Resources for children - MECPC	\$ 70.40	Ms S Harlow
10-Feb-23	Aussie Outback Supplies	Incident management storage bags	\$ 261.80	Mr A J Dyson
10-Feb-23	Engel World	Engel 38L & Bag - VBFB vehicle support equipment	\$ 1,325.00	Mr A J Dyson
10-Feb-23	Engel World	Refund - Overcharged VBFB vehicle support equipment	REFUND -\$ 176.00	Mr A J Dyson
10-Feb-23	Seek Limited	Job Advertisement - Street Tree Pruner	\$ 874.50	Mrs J N Dutton
10-Feb-23	Coles 0398	Catering - Community celebration morning tea	\$ 76.70	Ms R B McAllister

NAB Purchase Card Payments List for February 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Card User</u>
10-Feb-23	Seek Limited	Job Advertisement - Payroll Assistant Part-Time	\$ 346.50	Ms A E Douglas
10-Feb-23	Coles 0330	SD Card for Sound Recorder - Council Chamber	\$ 35.00	Mr R J Grieves
10-Feb-23	Tudor House WA Pty Ltd	National flag replacements - Bilgoman Aquatic Centre	\$ 185.00	Ms S H Crawford
11-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 3.00	Mrs G L Crosse
11-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 1.30	Mrs G L Crosse
11-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 4.00	Mrs G L Crosse
11-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 0.04	Mrs G L Crosse
11-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 0.01	Mrs G L Crosse
11-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 3.00	Mrs G L Crosse
11-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 3.00	Mrs G L Crosse
12-Feb-23	Woolworths Midland Centre point	Refreshments for community event	\$ 7.00	Ms G Evans
12-Feb-23	Kmart 1052	Tablecloths for library and events	\$ 20.00	Ms G Evans
12-Feb-23	Woolworths Midland Centre point	Refreshments for community event - KSP Library	\$ 38.70	Ms G Evans
12-Feb-23	Gilberts Fresh Market	Refreshments for community event - KSP Library	\$ 11.67	Ms G Evans
12-Feb-23	Dymocks Midland	Library Lovers Day event door prizes - KSP Library & AFM Library	\$ 71.96	Ms G Evans
13-Feb-23	Woolworths Midvale	Refreshments for parenting groups - Midvale Hub	\$ 50.40	Mrs J A Pearce
13-Feb-23	Officeworks 0608	Stationery - MECPC	\$ 7.96	Ms S Harlow
13-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 7.36	Mrs G L Crosse
13-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 9.00	Mrs G L Crosse
13-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 0.37	Mrs G L Crosse
13-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 2.67	Mrs G L Crosse
13-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 6.00	Mrs G L Crosse
13-Feb-23	Kounta	Monthly subscription	\$ 220.00	Mr S D Winfield
13-Feb-23	Gilberts Fresh Market	Catering - Community Celebration morning tea	\$ 80.87	Ms R B McAllister
13-Feb-23	IMIS NSW Pty Ltd	Baby Massage Training - SCFC Clayton View	\$ 2,010.00	Mrs S E Broad
13-Feb-23	Red Dot Mundaring	Raffle Tickets for BBQ	\$ 9.00	Ms C J Jones
13-Feb-23	QBD Books - Midland	Books for children's event - MECPC	\$ 262.88	Ms S Harlow
14-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 12.00	Mrs G L Crosse
14-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 7.63	Mrs G L Crosse
14-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 4.41	Mrs G L Crosse
14-Feb-23	Big W Midland Gate	Aqua nappies	\$ 150.30	Ms S H Crawford
14-Feb-23	Department of Transport	Transfer fee - Wooroloo VBFB fire trailer	\$ 19.40	Mr A J Dyson
14-Feb-23	Western Australian Planning Commission	Lease Application fee - Lot 804 Elmsfield Rd Midvale	\$ 609.00	Ms M Beley
15-Feb-23	Seek Limited	Job Advertisement - Communications Specialist	\$ 335.50	Mrs P Heath
15-Feb-23	Seek Limited	Job Advertisement - Parks Infrastructure Maintainer	\$ 346.50	Mrs J N Dutton
15-Feb-23	Officeworks 0608	Stationery requirements for DCBFCO vehicle	\$ 56.47	Mr C M Cuthbert
15-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 20.00	Mrs G L Crosse
15-Feb-23	Bunnings 591000	Required items for DCBFCO vehicle	\$ 176.65	Mr C M Cuthbert
15-Feb-23	Bunnings 591001	Required items for DCBFCO vehicle	\$ 75.25	Mr C M Cuthbert
16-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 13.53	Mrs G L Crosse
16-Feb-23	Big W Midland Gate	Key lock box for DCBFCO vehicle	\$ 6.00	Mr C M Cuthbert
16-Feb-23	Coles 0330	Container for raffle tickets	\$ 11.02	Mr C M Cuthbert
17-Feb-23	Department of Transport	Plate change from 066MDG to 1HVD739	\$ 30.50	Mrs J N Dutton
17-Feb-23	Woolworths Mundaring	Catering - Team Building exercise	\$ 34.00	Mrs J N Dutton

NAB Purchase Card Payments List for February 2023

<u>Date</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Card User</u>
17-Feb-23	Kmart 1052	Replacement kettle - Workshop	\$ 15.00	Mrs J N Dutton
17-Feb-23	Subway Swan view	Catering - Workshop SCFC Clayton View	\$ 84.35	Ms R B McAllister
17-Feb-23	Officeworks 0608	Poster printing school holiday activities	\$ 125.00	Ms R B McAllister
17-Feb-23	Woolworths Mundaring	Batteries for temperature loggers	\$ 15.00	Mr B A McLennan
17-Feb-23	Meta Platforms Ireland Limited	Portion of week long recruitment campaign on Facebook	\$ 30.00	Mrs G L Crosse
17-Feb-23	Woolworths Mundaring	Kitchen supplies - Bilgoman Aquatic Centre	\$ 18.50	Ms S H Crawford
18-Feb-23	Campaign Monitor	Children's event marketing bulk e-newsletter	\$ 141.71	Ms G Evans
19-Feb-23	Starlink Internet Services Pte Ltd	Starlink Subscription Lake Leschenaultia	\$ 139.00	Mr R J Grieves
19-Feb-23	Best & Less Ellenbrook	Resources for children - MECPC	\$ 211.50	Ms S Harlow
20-Feb-23	Target 5069	Equipment for children - MECPC	\$ 40.00	Ms S Harlow
20-Feb-23	Big W Midland Gate	Equipment for children - MECPC	\$ 38.00	Ms S Harlow
20-Feb-23	JB Hi-Fi Group Pty Ltd	DVD stock - KSP Library	\$ 110.89	Ms A L Rowe
20-Feb-23	JB Hi-Fi Group Pty Ltd	DVD stock - AFM Library	\$ 90.93	Ms A L Rowe
22-Feb-23	Paddle.com Market Ltd	Computer program - Manager Rec & Leisure	\$ 64.84	Mrs P Heath
22-Feb-23	Kinky Lizard OG	Refreshments - Councillor Study Tour on 22/02/2023	\$ 134.18	Mr J P Throssell
22-Feb-23	WA Safety Products	PPE Equipment for maintenance project	\$ 257.34	Mr J M Neale
22-Feb-23	Child Australia	Registration - Reimagining the Early Years Conference	\$ 104.45	Ms S Harlow
22-Feb-23	Vistaprint Australia Pty Limited	Business cards - Pool Inspector	\$ 54.58	Ms A E Douglas
22-Feb-23	Department of Transport	Vehicle transfer fee 1QCC163	\$ 19.40	Mrs J N Dutton
22-Feb-23	Department of Transport	Vehicle transfer fee 1QCC164	\$ 19.40	Mrs J N Dutton
24-Feb-23	Seek Limited	Job advertisement - Waste Operations Supervisor	\$ 764.50	Mrs J N Dutton
24-Feb-23	Aussie Outback Supplies	Kit bag - Fire Protection Officer	\$ 239.00	Ms C J Jones
25-Feb-23	Coles 0398	Refreshments for public event - KSP Library & AFM Library	\$ 61.48	Ms G Evans
25-Feb-23	Woolworths Midvale	Refreshments for public event - KSP Library	\$ 38.83	Ms G Evans
25-Feb-23	Woolworths Midvale	Office kitchen supplies - KSP Library	\$ 9.80	Ms G Evans
27-Feb-23	JB Hi-Fi Group Pty Ltd	Replacement bar fridge for babies room - MECPC	\$ 329.00	Mrs G L Crosse
28-Feb-23	NAB	Annual cardholder fee	\$ 100.00	
Total Purchase Card Payments			\$ 18,319.37	

11.0 COUNCIL MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

12.0 URGENT BUSINESS (LATE REPORTS)

12.1 Change in Basis of Valuation for Rating Purposes

File Code	Ro 6.2045, Pa 4.23, Es1.200, Ho 3.31, Mc 6.1795, Mc 6.1915, Mc 6.2025, Ot 1.190, Ot 1.100, Ot 1.40
Author	Stan Kocian, Manager Finance and Governance
Senior Employee	Garry Bird, Director Corporate Services
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	Nil

SUMMARY

This matter was previously considered by Council at its ordinary meeting held 14 February 2023 (C12.02.23); however, upon submitting the application to the Minister for Local Government, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (the Department) advised the Shire that in its view the initial letters sent to the impacted ratepayers did not include all of the information required. Whilst the letters to the ratepayers stated that their rates were likely to decrease, the letters did not include an indicative estimated dollar value of rates payable should the change be approved.

The Shire subsequently issued a second round of letters, which included an indicative estimated value of rates payable should the change be approved. The letters also provided for another submission period, which closed 31 March 2023 and included a land use declaration form.

Where a review has been undertaken in relation to the predominant use of rateable land in the district, Council must seek Ministerial approval prior to changing the basis of rating for a property from Unimproved Values (UV) to Gross Rental Value (GRV) (or from GRV to UV).

A review of the predominant land use has been undertaken for 11 rateable properties in Parkerville. The properties in question are currently rated as UV properties, however the review concluded that 10 of the properties should be rated as GRV properties. One of the 11 properties requires further investigation to clearly ascertain the predominant use of the land and is not considered in this report (due to ambiguous information provided by the property owner). The predominant land use for the 10 properties is residential (as opposed to rural i.e. farming and agriculture) and the properties are zoned rural residential under the Shire's Local Planning Scheme. All of the properties surrounding the properties subject to the review are rated as GRV properties.

It is recommended that the Council resolves to request the Minister for Local Government approve the change to the method of valuation of the land identified in this report; from UV to GRV, in accordance with section 6.28 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The land that has been reviewed and subject to change in basis of valuation is as follows:

- 1) Lot 48 on Plan 409932, 2045 Roland Road Parkerville WA 6081
- 2) Lot 48 on Plan 4994, 23 Parker Road Parkerville WA 6081
- 3) Lot 112 on Plan 14257, 200 Estelle Place Parkerville WA 6081
- 4) Lot 154 on Plan 64393, 31 Hollett Road Parkerville WA 6081
- 5) Lot 44 on Plan 67905, 1795 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081
- 6) Lot 45 on Plan 67905, 1915 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081
- 7) Lot 46 on Plan 67905, 2025 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081
- 8) Lot 41 on Plan 409932, 190 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081
- 9) Lot 42 on Plan 409932, 100 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081
- 10) Lot 42 on Plan 409932, 40 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081

BACKGROUND

Under section 6.28 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (the Act) the Minister for Local Government (the Minister) is responsible for determining the method of valuation of land to be used by a Local Government as the basis for a rate and publish a notice of the determination in the Government Gazette.

In determining the method of valuation to be used by a local government, the Minister is to have regard to the general principle that the basis for a rate on any land is to be:

- (a) *Where the land is used predominantly for rural purposes, the unimproved value of the land; and*
- (b) *Where the land is used predominantly for non-rural purposes, the gross rental value of the land.*

This authority has been delegated by the Minister to an officer of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Each Local Government has a role in ensuring that the rating principles of the Act are correctly applied to rateable land within their districts.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 6.28 of the *Local Government Act 1995*

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A change in the method of valuation from UV to GRV will impact the Shire's rate revenue, the extent of which is dependent upon the valuation provided by Landgate.

Based on surrounding property values and rates paid, it is likely that the rates payable for the 10 identified properties will be reduced.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 4 - Governance

Objective 4.4 – High standard of governance and accountability

Strategy 4.4.8 – Compliance with the Local Government Act 1995 and all relevant legislation and regulations

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Compliance and Reputational. The basis of valuation for rating purposes does not align with the predominant land use.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Possible	Moderate	Moderate
Action / Strategy		
Council seeks Ministerial approval to change the valuation basis for the properties subject to the predominant land use review.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

All landowners of the properties subject to the review were advised in writing that the Shire was undertaking a review. No objections were received as a result of this correspondence.

COMMENT

As stated in the 'Summary' section of this report, the Department advised the Shire that the initial letters sent to the impacted ratepayers did not include all of the information required. The Shire subsequently issued a second round of letters, which included an indicative estimated value of rates payable should the change be approved. The letters also provided for another submission period, which closed 31 March 2023 (the submission period was from 24 February 2023 to 31 March 2023).

Pursuant to section 6.28 of the Act the properties listed below, which are currently valued on unimproved values, should be valued on gross rental value based on the internal investigation undertaken by staff.

ID	Lot	Plan	Address
A	Lot 48	Plan 409932	2045 Roland Road Parkerville WA 6081
B	Lot 48	Plan 4994	23 Parker Road Parkerville WA 6081
C	Lot 112	Plan 14257	200 Estelle Place Parkerville WA 6081
D	Lot 154	Plan 64393	31 Hollett Road Parkerville WA 6081
E	Lot 44	Plan 67905	1795 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081

F	Lot 45	Plan 67905	1915 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081
G	Lot 46	Plan 67905	2025 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081
H	Lot 41	Plan 409932	190 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081
I	Lot 42	Plan 409932	100 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081
J	Lot 42	Plan 409932	40 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081

The investigations undertaken by staff identified the following:

1. All properties subject to the review are zoned as rural residential under the Shire's Local Planning Scheme;
2. A review of aerial photos of each property indicate that the land is not being used for significant farming or agricultural purposes;
3. The surrounding properties, which are also zoned as rural residential, are being rated based on a GRV valuation.

Five property owners also confirmed the predominant land use by completing a land use declaration form.

Based on the above information the predominant land use of each of the properties is considered to be "non-rural", therefore in order to maintain an equitable rates base and in accordance with section 6.28 of the Act, it is recommended that the method of valuing these properties for rating purposes be changed from unimproved value to gross rental value.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION RECOMMENDATION	C17.04.23
Moved by	Cr Ellery
Seconded by	Cr Zlatnik

That Council, in accordance with section 6.28 of the *Local Government Act 1995*, requests the Minister for Local Government approve the change to the method of valuation for the properties listed from Unimproved Value to Gross Rental Value.

- 1) Lot 48 on Plan 409932, 2045 Roland Road Parkerville WA 6081
- 2) Lot 48 on Plan 4994, 23 Parker Road Parkerville WA 6081
- 3) Lot 112 on Plan 14257, 200 Estelle Place Parkerville WA 6081
- 4) Lot 154 on Plan 64393, 31 Hollett Road Parkerville WA 6081
- 5) Lot 44 on Plan 67905, 1795 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081
- 6) Lot 45 on Plan 67905, 1915 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081
- 7) Lot 46 on Plan 67905, 2025 McDowell Loop Parkerville WA 6081
- 8) Lot 41 on Plan 409932, 190 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081
- 9) Lot 42 on Plan 409932, 100 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081
- 10) Lot 42 on Plan 409932, 40 Ottey Grove Parkerville WA 6081

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

Cr McNeil had previously disclosed a proximity interest in Item 12.2 and was required to leave the meeting for debate on this item. Accordingly Council resolved to appoint a presiding person for that part of the meeting Cr McNeil was required to be absent.

COUNCIL DECISION MOTION	C18.04.23
Moved by	Cr Ellery
Seconded by	Cr Zlatnik

That Cr Cook be appointed Presiding Person for debate on this item.

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

8.45pm, Cr McNeil left the meeting and Cr Cook assumed the Chair.

12.2 Proposed Correspondence to Western Australian Planning Commission regarding Addendum of Inadvertent Errors Relating to SP34's Amended Plan

File Code	PS.TPS 4.3
Author	Jonathan Throssell, Chief Executive Officer
Senior Employee	Jonathan Throssell, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	Nil

SUMMARY

On 3 April 2023 a request was received from Cr Claire Hurst to move a motion to consider an item of urgent business that is not included on the agenda of the meeting. In accordance with clause 4.11 of the *Shire of Mundaring Meeting Procedures Local Law 2015* the President has consented to the business raised.

Cr Hurst's motion is as follows:

- 1. That a letter be sent to the Chairperson of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), outlining the information supplied in the rationale detailed below and requesting that the WAPC apply for an extension of time to the public comment period of 15 business days being 29 May 2023, to afford the community and referral agencies equal opportunity and procedural fairness.*
- 2. That a copy of the letter be sent to Minister for Planning, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, (Hon. Rita Saffioti), the DPLH Director General (Anthony Kannis), WAPC Secretary (Sam Fagan), and the presiding Member of the Statutory Administrative Tribunal (Dr Stephen Willey).*

Cr Hurst has provided the following rationale in support of her motion:

"At the directions hearing on 4 November 2022, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) made orders for the applicant (Satterley) of North Stoneville development to provide an amended structure plan (SP34) and any supporting information to the respondent (the WAPC) by 31 January 2023.

Point 5 of the SAT orders state that the parties have liberty to apply, meaning an extension to the schedule, including the June 30 WAPC deadline, can be sought.

On 10 March 2023, the reports were released and the Public Comment period was opened for 42 business days.

On 23 March, Hatch Roberts Day, on behalf of Satterley (the applicant) provided 'Amendment 1, Addendum' to the DPLH confirming "inadvertent errors".

On 28 March the Addendum was uploaded to the DPLH website and on 31 March at 10.05am an email was sent to 'subscribers' of the site, notifying them of new and additional information while the public comment period is open.

'Subscribers' were made aware of the Addendum 15 business days after the public comment period was open.

Three additional reports are also dated post the 31 January 2023 deadline:

- a. 2023 Bushfire Simulation Modelling Report dated 9 February, 2023*
- b. 2023 Microsimulation Evacuation Modelling Report dated 16 February 2023*
- c. 2023 Bushfire Management Plan dated 16 February 2023*

The late receipt of reports, changes to information during the public comment period and 'inadvertent errors' contained within the reports create doubt as to whether our community have been afforded procedural fairness."

BACKGROUND

For the avoidance of doubt, Shire officers confirm the release of the four documents referred to above occurred on the dates as listed.

A special meeting of Council has been arranged for 2 May 2023, the purpose of which is to consider the Shire's referral response to the WA Planning Commission's (WAPC) reconsideration of Structure Plan 34 – North Stoneville (SP34), which is currently required to be submitted by 8 May 2023.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 3 - Built environment

Objective 3.3 – Regulated land use and building control to meet the current and future needs of the community

Strategy 3.3.1 – Incorporate appropriate planning controls for land use that meet current and future needs without compromising the highly valued character of the natural and built environment

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Reputation – community members who want the Council to advocate on their behalf might be aggrieved if the request to write a letter to the WAPC on this matter was refused and thus lose trust in the Shire's community leadership. Alternatively, other community members might form the view that this action is an unnecessary action.

Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
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Unlikely	Insignificant	Low
Action / Strategy		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write the letter as requested, noting it does not commit significant Shire resources 2. Refuse to support the request and provide explanation that individual referral agencies and community members can approach WAPC directly to seek an extension of time for a submission. 		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

The motion advises that the request to extend the public submission date to 29 May 2023 would ‘afford the community and referral agencies equal opportunity and procedural fairness’.

While it is acknowledged that other referral agencies and/or members of the public might require more time to prepare and present their submissions, Shire officers are confident the Shire’s referral response report will be finished in time for it to be included in the agenda for the meeting on 2 May 2023.

The motion includes a request that “*the WAPC apply for an extension of time to the public comment period of 15 business days*”. It is within the authority of WAPC to extend the public comment period, meaning they do not have to apply elsewhere (eg State Administrative Tribunal) for such approval. However any extension of time will reduce the time Department for Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) has to consider submissions and prepare a report for WAPC, which has been directed by SAT to reconsider its decision on SP34 by 30 June 2023 and advise SAT of its reconsidered decision by 10 July 2023. It is open to WAPC to seek SAT approval to alter these dates if it believes more time is required.

While it is open to other referral agencies and community members to approach WAPC directly to seek an extension of time for a submission, preparation of a letter on their behalf will not consume significant Shire resources.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

Moved by

Cr Hurst

Seconded by

Cr Zlatnik

1. That a letter be sent to the Chairperson of the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), outlining the information supplied in the rationale detailed below and requesting that the WAPC **extend the time period for public comment by an additional 15 business days, being 29 May 2023**, to afford the community and referral agencies equal opportunity **to digest the alterations and thus affording** procedural fairness; and
2. That a copy of the letter be sent to Minister for Planning, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, (Hon. Rita Saffioti), the DPLH Director General (Anthony Kannis), WAPC Secretary (Sam Fagan), and the Presiding Member of the State Administrative Tribunal (Dr Stephen Willey).

Rationale

At the directions hearing on 4 November 2022, the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) made orders for the applicant (Satterley) of North Stoneville development to provide an amended structure plan (SP34) and any supporting information to the respondent (the WAPC) by 31 January 2023.

Point 5 of the SAT orders state that the parties have liberty to apply, meaning an extension to the schedule, including the June 30 WAPC deadline, can be sought.

On 10 March 2023, the reports were released and the Public Comment period was opened for 42 business days.

On 23 March, Hatch Roberts Day, on behalf of Satterley (the applicant) provided 'Amendment 1, Addendum' to the DPLH confirming "inadvertent errors".

On 28 March the Addendum was uploaded to the DPLH website and on 31 March at 10.05am an email was sent to 'subscribers' of the site, notifying them of new and additional information while the public comment period is open.

'Subscribers' were made aware of the Addendum 15 business days after the public comment period was open.

Three additional reports are also dated post the 31 January 2023 deadline:

- a. 2023 Bushfire Simulation Modelling Report dated 9 February, 2023;
- b. 2023 Microsimulation Evacuation Modelling Report dated 16 February 2023; and
- c. 2023 Bushfire Management Plan dated 16 February 2023

The late receipt of reports, changes to information during the public comment period and 'inadvertent errors' contained within the reports **has not afforded our community procedural fairness.**

CARRIED 4/4

For: Cr Cook, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst and Cr Zlatnik

Against: Cr Ellery, Cr Jeans, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

The result was a tied vote and the Presiding Person exercised her authority under Section 5.21(3) of the *Local Government Act 1995* to cast a second vote in favour of the motion.

The following procedural motion was carried during debate on this item:

COUNCIL DECISION MOTION	C20.04.23
Moved by Cr Zlatnik	Seconded by Cr Ellery

That Cr Cicchini be allowed a three minute extension of time to speak to this item, in accordance with clause 6.11 of the *Shire of Mundaring Meeting Procedures Local Law 2015*.

CARRIED 8/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

9.17pm, Cr McNeil returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair.

12.3 Appointment of Deputy Member to WALGA East Metropolitan Zone

File Code	OR.IGR 3.1.2
Author	Jonathan Throssell, Chief Executive Officer
Senior Employee	Jonathan Throssell, Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	Nil

SUMMARY

In October 2021 three council members were appointed to the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) East Metropolitan Zone – Crs Daw, McNeil and Jeans. Cr Collins was appointed as a deputy member.

The next meeting of the Zone is scheduled to be held on 20 April 2023, however Crs McNeil and Collins are unable to attend.

Council is requested to consider appointing a second deputy member to the WALGA East Metropolitan Zone to ensure Shire of Mundaring has full representation at the meeting.

BACKGROUND

Cr McNeil is unable to attend the Zone meeting as she is attending the ALGA National Congress. Cr Collins has applied for a leave of absence from 11 April until 8 May 2023.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

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SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Reputation – Shire is not represented by a full complement of delegates, resulting in a reduced capacity to influence decisions made at the Zone meeting.
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Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
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Likely	Insignificant	Low
Action / Strategy		
Appoint an additional deputy member		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

The East Metropolitan Zone of WALGA reviews the WALGA State Council Agenda and can make recommendations on matters listed on that agenda for consideration by State Council, as well as determining resolutions which are forwarded to WALGA State Council for consideration.

The membership of the East Metropolitan Zone comprises three voting delegates from Town of Bassendean, Cities of Belmont, Bayswater, Kalamunda and Swan, and Shire of Mundaring.

Should there be less than three Shire voting delegates attend the meeting, the Shire might be disadvantaged on matters it considers important to advocate to WALGA if there is insufficient support from the other delegates. However this does not preclude the Shire from advocating directly to WALGA should it choose.

Appointment of a second deputy delegate is considered prudent to ensure the Shire is fully represented at all Zone meetings.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COUNCIL DECISION	C21.04.23
RECOMMENDATION	
Moved by	Cr Daw
Seconded by	Cr Beale

That Council nominates **Cr Cicchini** as a second deputy member to the Western Australian Local Government Association East Metropolitan Zone:

CARRIED 9/0

For: Cr Cook, Cr Ellery, Cr McNeil, Cr Jeans, Cr Daw, Cr Hurst, Cr Zlatnik, Cr Beale and Cr Cicchini

Against: Nil

13.0 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Nil

14.0 CLOSING PROCEDURES

14.1 Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9 May 2023 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber.

14.2 Closure of the Meeting

The Presiding Person declared the meeting closed at 9.21pm.