

NATURAL RESERVES STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY
INFORMATION 2016

PURPOSE OF THIS UPDATE

The purpose of this update is to assist to inform community about the community consultation processes for the Natural Reserves Strategy and Action Plan.

BACKGROUND

The City of Albany is committed to completing a Strategy & Action Plan for its Natural Reserves by July 2016. The strategy aims to develop a plan that is financially sustainable, reflects environmental best practice and balances biodiversity conservation with community and user needs.

This proposal addresses the City's community engagement objectives in preparation of this plan to:

- Gather information from key stakeholders and community members that will assist the City of Albany when making decisions to improve and maintain the amenities within the reserve.
- To improve the way the City communicates to members of the community by directly inviting them to participate in the planning of natural reserves.
- To work with the community to genuinely seek their feedback and values.

This plan will encompass Natural Areas only which is a subset of the City's total reserves.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

1. Collation of available current usage data for the City's Natural Area reserves.
2. Develop a range of engagement tools and circulate to stakeholders groups to gain input to the plan.
3. Workshops with community and relevant stakeholders to gain input to the plan.
4. Oversee the collation of all input and analyse the input to inform development of the plan.
5. Provide a summary of input to the plan.
6. Prepare draft Natural Reserves Strategy and Action Plan in conjunction with appropriate City of Albany staff and key stakeholders.

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Green Skills Inc.
Working for a sustainable future

The Hairy Spinifex (Spinifex hirsutus) motif is featured at the top of this 'Summer Update' because it is native to Albany and a common sight on beaches in summertime. When covered by windborne sand the plant is able to send out new roots from the leaf node. The low spreading growth of the Spinifex helps to trap sand and bind dune systems against the forces of the waves and tides.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I get involved and have a say?

The community comment period for this project will be open between 28 April and 3 June 2016. During this time there will be multiple opportunities for comment through community meetings, an online survey and static displays around City of Albany.

Why is Council writing a Natural Reserve Strategy and Action Plan?

This Natural Reserve strategy will sit as a part of the integrated planning and reporting framework for the Council and will provide an overview of the community's aspirations into the future with regard to managing Council assets.

What will be in the plan?

The plan will include background information on Council's natural reserves and also an outline to key guiding principles for management of some 450 reserves. A key component of the document will be the four year action plan of management for key reserves identified through the engagement process.

How is the information in the plan translated into on-ground action?

A key component of the strategy will be the four year action plan that will address on-ground management for reserves. These actions will be supported by the 10 year and annual Council budget items.

Why are the only natural reserves included in the strategy?

City of Albany reserves are categorised into two different types of reserves, natural and developed reserves.

Natural reserves are those reserves that consist of predominantly natural areas and native vegetation. Developed reserves consist of our developed parks, play grounds, gardens and entertainment spaces.

Due to differences in the two categories of re-

serves, they are managed in different ways and consequently they require two different strategies.

What are the City of Albany Natural Reserves and where are these reserves?

Natural reserves are those reserves that consist of predominantly natural areas and native vegetation. The City manages about 450 natural reserves and they are spread all over the municipality from Pallinup River in the east to Wilson inlet in the west. There are four categories of natural reserves, coastal, hinterland, watercourse and foreshore, and the Mounts.

What is Council going to do with the Strategy?

The document will outline key guiding principles that the City will follow when managing natural reserves. The document will also include an action list for scheduled upgrade/improvement works in reserves, which will be included in future budget allocations.

Will Council have the budget to implement any actions recommended by the Strategy?

The actions from the document will be included into the Council's 10 year plan for reserves, which will feed into the annual Council budget allocation for works.

Will any reserves be closed to particular activities as a result of the strategy?

Council is not looking to close any reserves, however this will depend on community feedback. Any major change to a reserve will require a decision from Council supported by community.

Will the strategy result in improved facilities in the reserves?

Yes. This document will include an action plan which will outline specific improvements to facilities and conditions of the reserves.

Who can I talk to, to get further information about the plan?

You can either call the City of Albany Manager of Reserves on 9841 9253 or Dr Louise Duxbury from Green Skills on 9848 3310.

How long do I have to make my comments?

The public comment period will be open from 28 April to 3 June 2016.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation will be critical to the successful development of the strategic plan.

Dr Louise Duxbury from Green Skills (Green Skills Inc.) will be running an online survey and holding a number of free community workshops to allow stakeholders and public to have input in the development of the plan.

WORKSHOPS

Agency/Key stakeholder Workshop (invite only)

Wed 18 May, 3-4.30pm
City of Albany, Civic Rooms.

Community Workshop 1*

Wed 18 May, 5.30-7.30pm
City of Albany, Civic Rooms.

Community Workshop 2*

Tues 24 May, 5.30-7.30pm
Bornholm Hall

Community Workshop 3*

Wed 25 May, 5.30-7.30pm
Lower Kalgan Hall

WHAT'S NEXT:

Once the draft strategy and action plan is compiled for the Natural Reserves, it will be endorsed by Council, which is most likely to occur in July/August 2016.

The action plan will provide strategic management directions over the next 4 years for how the City cares for its 450 reserves.



Image: Lee Griffith

ONGOING COMMITMENT

Council has demonstrated its ongoing commitment to the implementation of the Draft Natural Reserves Strategy and Action Plan. Council acknowledge that many of Albany's Natural Reserves are a key part of what makes the City of Albany's environment so special to people who live here and visitors to the region.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

The community is encouraged to provide feedback and have a say in the future direction and management of natural reserves by attending the workshops, completing the survey, or by completing a submission.

SURVEY

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NaturalReserves>

Hard copies available from Albany Library, North Road Administration, and many regional locations.