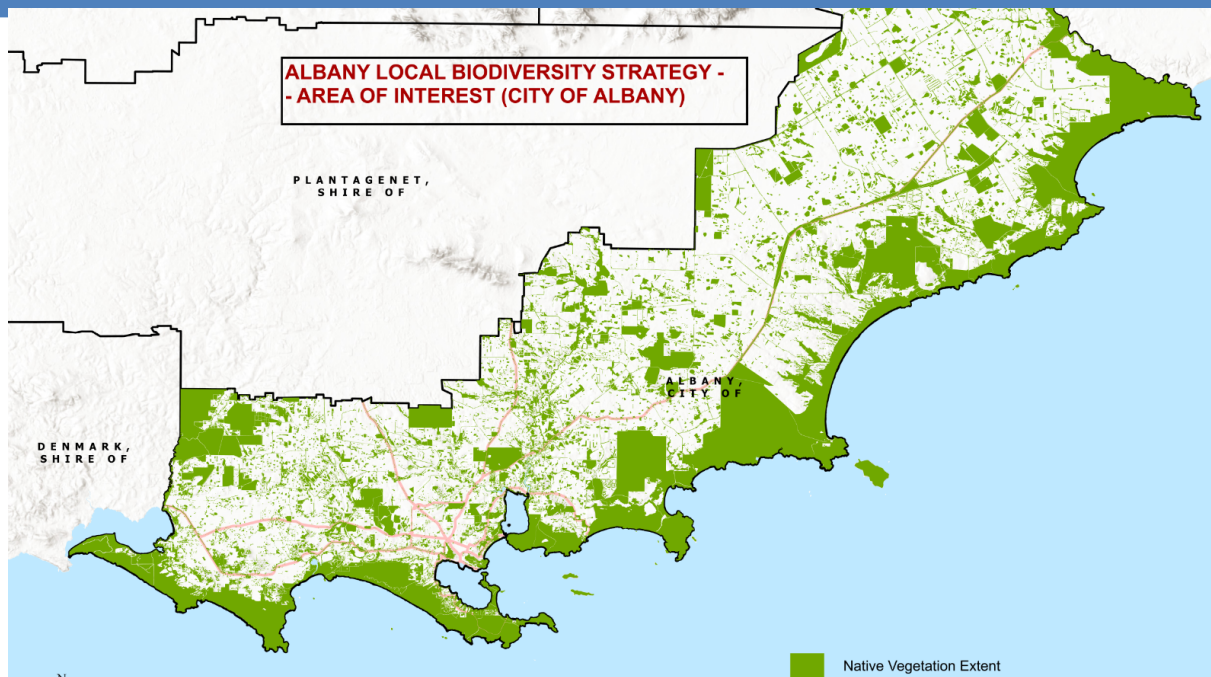


Local Biodiversity Strategy Community and Stakeholder Engagement City of Albany, Western Australia



Prepared For: City of Albany
102 North Road
ALBANY WA 6330

Report Number: AP2024/166

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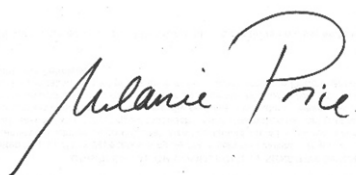
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SUMMARY

An overview of the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy is included below. The scheduling is flexible to allow for changes to the engagement program, if required.

TABLE 1: TIMEFRAMES FOR CONSULTATION

STAGE	TASK	TIMING	DELIVERABLE	STAKEHOLDER	ENGAGEMENT METHOD
Part A: Community and Stakeholder Engagement					
1.1	Project commencement and inception meeting PCG - 1	17/7/2024	Meeting minutes	PCG	Meeting
1.2	Preparation of Engagement Strategy	Jul-24	Engagement Strategy	PCG & SC	Reporting
1.3	Collate and prepare summary of initial community survey results	Jul-24	Survey Summary	PGC and SC	Survey
1.4	Formal expression of interest and establish a Community Stakeholder Group (CSG)	Jul-24	Formation of Stakeholder Groups	CSG	Correspondence
1.5	Meeting PCG – Progress Meeting - 2	August - 24	Meeting minutes		Meeting
1.6	Workshop with CSG: Introduction and consideration of · Concepts · Vision, · Goals · Principles · Definitions · Methodology · Threats · Values	Aug-24	Workshop 1	PCG, SC & CSG	Workshop
1.7	Administer and facilitate formal community consultation, including letters and emails of introduction, website updates, Facebook and other social media posts, attendance at appropriate events	Aug-24	Media	All	Social media posts, City of Albany weekly information posts, newspaper spread/ article
1.8	Preparation of Consultation Outcomes report	Mar-25	Consultation Outcomes Report	SC	Reporting
1.9	Preparation and presentation of findings to Elected Members	Dec-24	Presentation - Elected Members - 1	Elected Members	Workshop/ presentation and feedback
Part B: Assessment of biodiversity values, opportunities and constraints					
2.1	Undertake high-level desktop assessment to identify areas with high biodiversity values. Not focused on existing reserves except in context of connectivity or landscape values. Define: 'Local Natural Area' and 'Biodiversity Values'. Take into account relevant legislative and regulatory frameworks (Section in Strategy)	Aug-24	Chapter of LBS		Reporting
2.2	Identify opportunities and constraints	Aug-24	Chapter of LBS		Reporting
Part C: Establish criteria and a priority framework for the identification of areas of high conservation value					

Local Biodiversity Strategy Community and Stakeholder Engagement City of Albany, Western Australia

3.1	Establish criteria to determine local areas of high, medium or low conservation value	Sep-24	Methodology Chapter of LBS		Reporting
3.2	Establish supporting framework to inform assigning of priority levels	Sep-24	Methodology Chapter of LBS		Reporting
3.3	Identify potential actions for protection/management of high conservation areas	Sep-24	Action, Opportunities and Constraints Chapter		Reporting
3.4	Meeting PCG – Progress Meeting - 3	August - 24	Meeting minutes		Meeting
3.5	Workshop with TWG and CSG: Criteria for Prioritising Local Natural Areas	Oct-24	Workshop 2	CSG and All	Workshop
3.6	Identify local areas of interest	Oct-24	Chapter - Biodiversity Values		Reporting
3.7	Recommend a priority level to be assigned to these areas based on the framework	Dec-24	Chapter - Priorities		Reporting
3.8	Identify draft actions for protection, management and conservation based on priority level	Dec-24	Action, Opportunities and Constraints Chapter		Reporting
Part D: Prepare an Outcomes report					
4.1	Prepare chapter(s) based on parts A, B and C	Jan-25	Draft LBS		Reporting
4.2	Presentation and workshop with Elected Members	Feb-25	Presentation - Elected Members - 2	Elected Members	Presentation/ Workshop
Part E: Prepare draft local biodiversity strategy					
5.1	Prepare draft local biodiversity strategy	Feb-25	Draft LBS		Reporting
5.2	Meeting PCG – Progress Meeting - 4	August - 24	Meeting minutes		Meeting
5.3	CSG Workshop · Prioritising outcomes · Opportunities and Constraints · Challenges · Mechanisms	Mar-25	Workshop 3	PCG, SC & CSG	Workshop
5.4	Presentation and workshop with elected members	Mar-25	Presentation - Elected Members - 3	Elected Members	Presentation and Workshop
5.5	Formal advertising, including public information sessions	Mar-25	Summary of Submissions	All	Public advertising/ Submissions
Part F: Prepare final version of biodiversity strategy					
6.1	Prepare final draft strategy	May-25	Final LBS		Reporting
6.2	Meeting PCG – Progress Meeting - 5	August - 24	Meeting minutes		Meeting
6.3	Presentation and workshop with elected members	Jun-25	Presentation - Elected Members - 3	Elected Members	Presentation and Workshop

1 INTRODUCTION

Aurora Environmental has been appointed by the City of Albany (COA) to prepare a Local Biodiversity Strategy (LBS) to facilitate the protection, enhancement and linkage of natural areas in the City of Albany municipality. The strategy will assist the incorporation of biodiversity considerations into planning and decision-making processes. The goal is to support the protection of the natural environment and maintain a high diversity of flora and fauna in the municipality.

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES) outlines the framework for engagement, to ensure that the community and stakeholders are informed and are actively and effectively engaged throughout the Biodiversity Strategy process.

The purpose of this CSES is to:

- Provide an understanding of the purpose and intent of the LBS, including key outcomes;
- Define the project structure, key roles and responsibilities of the Consultant Team and the COA with respect to engagement and communication protocols;
- Establish guiding communication and engagement objectives;
- Identify key project stakeholders;
- Establish an appropriate community engagement approach, tools and techniques;
- Outline an engagement and communications schedule;
- Acknowledge community sensitivities and provide an approach to dealing with potential user group conflict; and
- Establish a feedback and evaluation mechanism.

The CSES will be reviewed by the Project Control Team and Steering Committee for consideration prior to commencing the community engagement process.

1.1 PREVIOUS PROJECTS

The Albany Regional Vegetation Survey (Sandiford and Barrett, 2010) is a significant precursor to the preparation of the Local Biodiversity Strategy as it helps to identify vegetation units and representation for part of the Albany municipality.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy extends the ARVS in that it examines local natural areas, sets criteria for ranking of bushland areas, identifies areas important for connectivity and recommends strategies for the protection and management of areas with biodiversity values. Importantly, key stakeholder and community input is an integral part of the LBS development.

The City of Albany have undertaken numerous projects which assist in the management and protection of biodiversity, including:

- Corporate documents such as community strategy;
- Planning documents such as Local Planning Strategy, Local Planning Scheme and maps; and
- Management documents such as Weed Strategy.

1.2 PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT

The City of Albany has undertaken an initial survey to determine the extent to which the community values biodiversity and to evaluate, perceptions, opportunities and risks. The survey combined questions about biodiversity and an Urban Forest Strategy and included contextual information on the purpose of the two strategies, and maps to define areas of interest.

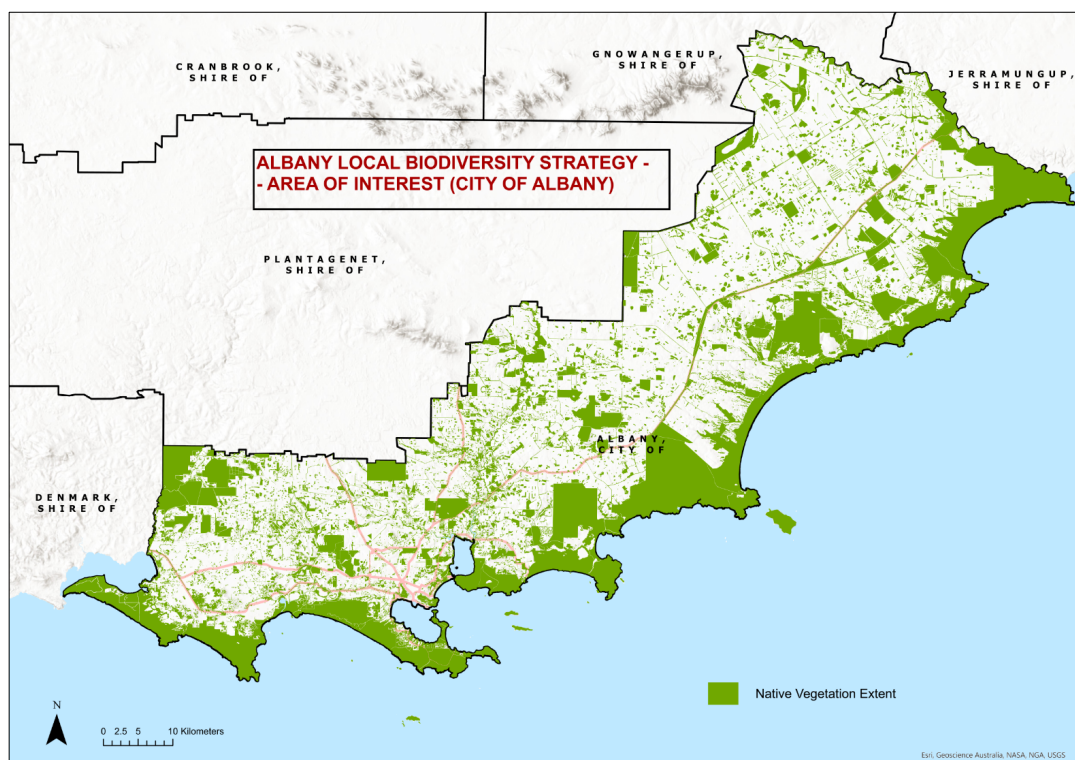
A variety of question types were used to gather a comprehensive range of insights and maximise respondent engagement. These included: multiple-choice, open-ended questions, Likert scale to indicate their level of agreement or disagreement, rating scale and matrix questions.

A summary of the survey results will be included in the Stakeholder Outcomes document.

1.3 STUDY AREA

The study area comprises the whole municipality of the City of Albany as shown in Plate 1. The LBS will also consider the context of biodiversity values in surrounding areas (e.g. linkage and significance).

PLATE 1: LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY STUDY AREA



Source: City of Albany, 2024.

2 THE FRAMEWORK

2.1 LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) has developed a framework for local biodiversity planning for local government (2023). Development of a biodiversity strategy by a local government authority is aimed at providing a framework for Councils to consider biodiversity in:

- Land use planning;
- Development approvals; and
- Enforcement of local laws.

A local biodiversity strategy considers matters that local governments have control over and does not replace legislation or policies run by State and Commonwealth governments. Rather, the strategy aims to complement other processes and consider local matters of biodiversity significance.

2.2 CITY OF ALBANY – COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

City of Albany activities and priorities are guided by its Community Strategic Plan – Albany 2032 (City of Albany, 2023a) which links to a Corporate Business Plan (City of Albany, 2023b) and Annual Budgets.

The Community Strategic Plan and therefore the Local Biodiversity Strategy seeks to:

- Balance the wide range of views held within the community;
- Simplify and make complex issues understandable;
- Be positive, forward thinking and inclusive; and
- Meet regulatory responsibilities.

3 OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

3.1 BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

The Local Biodiversity Strategy will:

- Identify local natural areas, the biodiversity they support and their conservation significance;
- Set biodiversity objectives and targets based on spatial analysis, consistent endorsed criteria and regional context;
- Create a bushland protection map/conservation priorities map;
- Determine priorities for protection based on ecological criteria;
- Identify opportunities and constraints for protection of local natural areas;
- Identify actions to achieve objectives and targets;
- Actively engage with key stakeholders and the community in the development of the criteria in the LBS;
- Potentially allow for adoption of the Local Biodiversity Strategy as a policy under the City of Albany Local Planning Scheme No. 2.

3.2 BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY OUTCOMES

The most desirable outcome of the LBS process will be support and adoption by the City of Albany Council of specific planning controls and actions for priority local natural areas in the short, medium and long term. Priority criteria will be based on stakeholder consultation and engagement plus other statutory processes. The City of Albany will be responsible for the final adoption of the LBS.

3.3 ENGAGEMENT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the CSES is to provide a framework for implementing effective community and stakeholder engagement which is required to support technical work for the LBS project. The CSES outlines the plan for communication and how to disseminate information about biodiversity, local natural areas and outcomes of the LBS.

The engagement strategy will provide clarity on planned community and stakeholder engagement and communications activities and forms the basis of community and stakeholder communications for the project. This includes meetings and deliverables for the project, frequency and type of communications and engagement. It also assigns responsibility for the Consultant Project Team, COA Project Control Team, Steering Committee, Technical Working Group and framework for involvement of the Community Stakeholder Group and other stakeholder.

The **purpose** of the CSES is to:

- Foster a sense of community cohesion with respect to LBS options and processes;
- Provide information and share knowledge widely;
- Record and incorporate local knowledge;
- Create a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for the process and the outcomes of the LBS;

- Manage expectations about what the City of Albany can do as an organisation;
- Provide confidence to decision makers that the community and stakeholders have been adequately consulted, even if consensus is not totally achieved.

The **objectives** of the CSES are to:

- Encourage the participation of everyone affected by or interested in the LBS;
- Create an encouraging and supportive engagement environment;
- Ensure information regarding the LBS process is easily accessible and understood;
- Foster an appreciation and understanding of varying views and needs with respect to the LBS;
- Facilitate the building of functional relationships between different stakeholders;
- Ensure an open, transparent and accountable community and stakeholder engagement process is undertaken;
- Allow sufficient time to participate and engage in the LBS process;
- Provide a consistent approach to community and stakeholder engagement;
- Ensure the communication and engagement expectations of the community and stakeholders are managed and guided in accordance with the CSES; and
- Provide the community with feedback, whilst respecting the privacy and confidentiality of those engaged.

4 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT SCOPE

4.1 PRINCIPLES

The implementation of the CSES will follow the best practice leading principles of the International Association for Public Participation Australasia ('IAP2') Public Participation Spectrum, linking with the City's Community Engagement Policy (City of Albany, 2019).

Engagement will be based on the simplified strategy shown in Plate 2 following the engagement levels of inform, consult, involve, collaborate, empower.

Ultimately, the City of Albany has responsibility for much of the long term planning and implementation of the LBS. The City of Albany Council will therefore need to make the final decision to adopt the LBS.

4.2 CONSISTENCY

The CSES activities and overall engagement will be consistent with the City of Albany Community Engagement and Communications Staff Toolkit (City of Albany, 2013).

4.3 TIMEFRAMES FOR CONSULTATION

Timeframes for stakeholder consultation are described in Table 1.

There are three Steering Committee meetings and three CSG workshops. There will also be three presentations to Elected Members.

4.4 ACTIVITIES

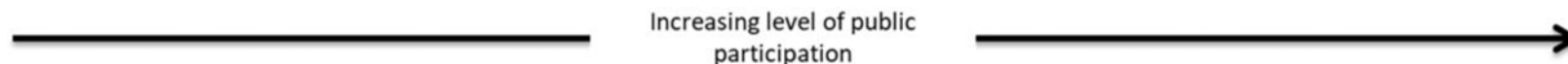
The activities outlined in Table 3 are proposed to be used for community and stakeholder engagement. The activities are outlined in more detail in Section 6.

TABLE 3: ACTIVITIES FOR COLLECTING AND SHARING INFORMATION

INFORMATION SHARING	COLLECTING INFORMATION	BRINGING TOGETHER	PEOPLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COA Website • Introduction emails and or letters to identified stakeholders (email and post) to get stakeholders on contact list. • COA Media Liaison/ Weekly updates • Email follow up (events and advertising) • Newspaper articles (COA spread?) • Supporting material will include: Infographics, PowerPoint, posters and maps showing LNA areas and priorities • Display (drop in at events) Albany Show, Albany Plaza shopping centre, On-site at a frequented biodiversity hotspot • Social Media (Facebook, X, Instagram) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey • Primary stakeholder interviews (TWG) • Community information sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Briefings • City of Albany Project Control Team Meetings • Steering Committee Meetings • Technical Working Group Meetings • Attendance at events • Community Stakeholder Group information and workshop sessions • Interviews, meetings and events with individuals and groups 	

PLATE 2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (ADAPTED FROM IAP2 SPECTRUM OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)

	Community Engagement				Council Decision Making
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public to make decisions including the development of alternatives and the identification of preferred solutions.	To place decision making in the hands of the public, through Council representatives.
PROMISE	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are considered in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and consider your advice and recommendations in decision-making.	We will implement your CHRMAP
PRACTICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website • Media releases • City Focus • Social media • Information displays • Factsheets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys • Submissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder focus groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council adoption of the CHRMAP
ROLE	Listen	Contribute	Participate	Partner	Decide



Community Engagement (adapted from IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, after the City of Bunbury Community Engagement Information Sheet)

5 STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION

5.1 STAKEHOLDERS AND ENGAGEMENT

A stakeholder is any person, or group, who has an interest in the project or could be potentially affected by its delivery or outcomes. A community engagement process should both understand and learn from community stakeholders and ask the following questions:

- Who are internal and external stakeholders?
- Who are the stakeholders and parts of the community to be engaged with?
- How can they inform us?
- What can we learn from them?
- How might they influence the success of the LBS and its implementation?
- How might the outcomes of the LBS affect the community and stakeholders?

5.2 PROJECT CONTROL GROUP (COA)

The PCG comprises:

Chair – Paul Camins - City of Albany Executive Director Development Infrastructure and Sustainability (or delegate) plus staff from Development Services Reserves to ensure the project is delivered within scope, budget and timeframes.

5.3 CONSULTANT PROJECT TEAM

Melanie Price of Aurora Environmental will be the Project Director and responsible for community and stakeholder engagement. Melanie is supported by Dr Catherine Hall, also of Aurora Environmental. Other members of the Aurora team may assist in the LBS process.

5.4 CITY OF ALBANY COUNCILLORS

The City of Albany Council will be responsible for understanding the implications of, and adopting the LBS.

5.5 INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Internal stakeholders include those who will need to either implement or undertake other actions and activities associated with the LBS. These stakeholders are likely to include the following teams:

- Reserves Management Team (management of reserves and coordination of Friends and other stakeholders);
- Planning Team (incorporation into planning processes); and
- Fire and Emergency Services Team (consideration in emergency responses).

5.6 STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee comprises City staff from various teams, including Development Services, Reserves and two Elected Members (Table 4). The primary role of the Committee is to provide oversight of the project, including review and sign off on completed deliverables by the consultant.

TABLE 4: STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Technical Working Group
Chair - Executive Director Infrastructure, Development and Environment
Project Manager – Senior Planner
Administration Support
Manager Development Services
Manager City Reserves
Coordinator Planning Services
Councillors: Stephen Grimmer and Lynn MacLaren

5.7 COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

The purpose of the Community Stakeholder Group (CSG) is to provide:

- Diverse perspectives and local insights throughout the strategy development process.
- Specialised knowledge and offer technical expertise during the planning and development stages. Some group members have skills in planning, local government operations, flora, vegetation, fauna, wetlands, watercourses and landscape scale connectivity.

The proposed makeup of the group (Table 6) represents community members and key stakeholders from Government agencies. Members have been invited as they represent a broad range of urban and rural interests. Some community members also have previous State government agency experience.

TABLE 6: PROPOSED COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Community Stakeholder Group	
<i>Wagyl Kaip</i>	<i>kaya@wagylkaip.org.au</i>
<i>Friends of Yakamia</i>	<i>TBC</i>
<i>Chris Gunby</i>	<i>fishfinder50@hotmail.com</i>
<i>Justin Hardy</i>	<i>kr.shamba@gmail.com</i>
<i>Ian Herford</i>	<i>ian.herf31@hotmail.com.au</i>
<i>Sean Ozzinger (Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee)</i>	<i>info@wicc.org.au</i>
<i>Torbay Catchment Group</i>	<i>nrmo@torbaycatchment.org.au</i>
<i>Oyster Harbour Catchment Group</i>	<i>communications@ohcg.org.au</i>
<i>Sandra Gilfillan (Zoologist Consultant; Macro Corridor Project)</i>	<i>TBC</i>
<i>Bronte Van Helden (UWA and SCNRM)</i>	<i>bronte.vanhelden@research.uwa.edu.au</i>
<i>Sarah Barrett (DBCA – botanist)</i>	<i>sarah.barrett@dbca.wa.gov.au</i>
<i>Sarah Comer (DBCA – ecologist)</i>	<i>sarah.comer@dbca.wa.gov.au</i>
<i>Deon Utber (DBCA – Regional Leader in Nature Conservation)</i>	<i>deon.utber@dbca.wa.gov.au</i>
<i>Keith Bradby (Gondwana Link)</i>	<i>bradby@gondwanalink.org</i>
<i>Nicolie Sykora (DWER)</i>	<i>nicolie.sykora@dwer.wa.gov.au</i>
<i>Melinda Lyons</i>	<i>Melinda.Lyons@dplh.wa.gov.au</i>
<i>Albany Wildflower Society</i>	<i>albanyherb@dbca.wa.gov.au</i>
<i>Ann Bondin (Birdlife WA)</i>	<i>TBC</i>
<i>Renata Zelinosa (WALGA)</i>	<i>TBC</i>

5.8 KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Other potential stakeholders include:

- State Government Agencies:
- Commonwealth DCCEEW
- Eco Tourism operators
- UWA
- CENRM
- School children
- Recreation groups

6 ENGAGEMENT KEY MESSAGES, ACTIVITIES AND TIMING

6.1 KEY MESSAGES

The following are draft key messages relating to the LBS that will reinforce the objectives of the project, pre-empt possible misunderstandings and build cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders:

1. The City of Albany and key stakeholders are working collaboratively to identify opportunities to protect biodiversity through the identification of Local Natural Areas and their corresponding biodiversity values. This project will follow the guidelines prepared by WALGA (Appendix 1).
2. The objective of the project is to identify and prioritise Local Natural Areas to facilitate long term planning and implementation for biodiversity protection. Criteria will be used to prioritise different areas based on ecological and planning criteria.
3. The project will identify opportunities and constraints for biodiversity protection, including the framework that the City works within for vegetation retention and management of natural areas.
4. The project will provide a framework for the management of local natural areas.
5. The project will seek to provide consistent and regular updates so that the community is informed and will also seek feedback on impacts and concerns of affected community members or groups to ensure that the LBS is robust, fair and respectful of existing community values.
6. The project will be seeking community feedback regarding the recommendations for the protection of biodiversity, especially given the trade offs which may be required.

6.2 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND TIMING

Engagement activities and levels, purpose and frequency are summarised in Table 7.

TABLE 7: SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	ENGAGEMENT LEVELS	PURPOSE	FREQUENCY
City of Albany Webpage	Inform/ Involve	Create a City of Albany webpage for the LBS process which will outline the project objectives, process and status. Include timelines, when appropriate	At commencement of project and then adjust as project progresses.
Creation of Stakeholder list with ongoing additions for ongoing contact via mailing list	Inform	Ensure that Stakeholders have been identified. Use Reserves Team list as a base and add to mailing list as new stakeholders and interested parties are identified	Update as required.
Steering Committee Meetings	Collaborate	Provide project updates, discuss draft findings and recommendations. Invite Steering Committee members to attend key events for context and support. Seek feedback, advice and recommendations.	Three meetings in total. At the completion of nominated project stages or key milestones. Timed to link with COA Project Management Team Meetings.
City of Albany Project Management Team Meetings	Involve/ Collaborate	Briefings to key staff members with information exchange for areas of expertise and operation. Seek feedback, advice and recommendations.	Three meetings in total. At the completion of nominated project stages or key milestones. Timed to link with Steering Committee Meetings.
City of Albany Council Briefings	Inform	Briefings to key staff members and the Council. Includes the preparation of supporting material to assist in engaging and briefing Council.	Three Council briefings. Timed to coincide with key milestones of project.
Media: Facebook, Instagram and X, media liaison update emails, COA Newspaper spread	Inform/ Consult	General information, project awareness and education targeted at the broader community. It is assumed communication will primarily be through City of Albany systems, to ensure acceptability and to make use of the City's existing communication platforms including website, Facebook page and newspaper spread. Possible conflict resolution will be addressed rapidly with the City.	Continuous throughout the project. Tailored to build on the City's existing communication platforms and scheduled activities.
Preparation of supporting information: Factsheet, FAQs, Infographics, posters	Inform	Content and supporting material will be prepared in a timeline for scheduling at least one week in advance at any given point.	As required, initially at the beginning of the project for use at events and as a basis for survey, meetings and other engagement.

Community Information Session/ Workshop	Inform/ Consult	Informal 'drop-in' information sessions. Target shopping centres and community events. Introduction to the project, with education on the importance of biodiversity. Education on the LBS process and how it links with other projects. Opportunity to ask questions and raise project awareness.	Undertaken primarily during the early stages of the project and then to determine community response to possible trade-offs and treatments
Identification of ongoing opportunities for engagement	Inform/ Involve	The City will benefit from undertaking ongoing engagement related to the implementation of the LBS	The review of the Albany Planning Strategy, rezoning and development and other planning and implementation opportunities can be used to reengage with key stakeholders.

7 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

7.1 OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT

Identification of possible barriers or challenges to successful engagement allows for proactive consideration of solutions to ensure that the engagement process remains on track and can meet its objectives. Potential barriers to effective engagement are summarised in Table 8. Creation of this CSES and ongoing communication will assist in managing risks associated with communications.

TABLE 8: POSSIBLE BARRIERS TO ENGAGEMENT

BARRIER	FACTOR	POSSIBLE SOLUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community or stakeholders feel excluded from engagement process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mismatch of expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly communicate the purpose of the engagement and project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation fatigue/ low community participation/ poor attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation fatigue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check that you are going to the right target audience. Don't over consult, and work with others who might be doing engagement too. Make sure the stakeholders are getting something from the process - the WIFM factor (What's In It For Me).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controversy/ Political sensitivity of outcomes/ Polarised views Special interest groups/ potential derailers Negative media coverage or high media interest without full story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controversy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain impartial, rational and even-handed. Avoid personalising issues. Control engagement to avoid takeover by interest groups use professional facilitators if necessary.

Based on South Coast NRM Community Engagement Handbook (Green Skills, 2014)

7.2 BUILDING STAKEHOLDER CAPACITY

Building the capacity of the stakeholders is an important part of the LBS process as it will enhance thoughtful and informed discussion, promote a sense of resilience, confidence and empowerment.

7.3 CONFLICT RESOLUTION

In the event there is a conflict that arises during, or as a result of engagement, the following will apply:

- As soon as potential conflict is identified by the project team (including COA Project Control Team and Project Consultant Team), it will be discussed with the City of Albany to determine the best way to resolve the issue;

- The project team (COA Project Control Team and Aurora) will work together to understand the origins of the conflict, identify the stakeholders involved and develop an engagement approach to minimise its effects.

8 PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS

The success of the project will be governed by clear and frequent communication by the Consultant Project Team with key stakeholders including the following:

8.1 CITY OF ALBANY PROJECT CONTROL GROUP

- Aurora will report directly to the PCG.
- All media enquiries will be directed to the COA Project Manager.
- Aurora will meet with the PCG prior to Steering Committee meetings to discuss progress and future activities.
- Three meetings

8.2 STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee will meet three times at the following stages:

- Determining methodology;
- Draft Document prior to advertising;
- Final Document, prior to finalisation.

City of Albany will set agenda and perform executive duties (minutes).

8.3 COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Three workshops will be held with the CSG.

8.4 EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

External project communications are to be controlled through the PCG and all information produced will be distributed by the COA Project Manager, unless otherwise required/agreed.

It is anticipated that Aurora will work with the PCG to prepare stakeholder resource materials. The City will provide a graphic template for communications (and advice regarding the content) and the Consultant Team shall be responsible for the compilation of this material. The City will be responsible for circulation, via their website, social media, news media and/ or hard copy distribution.

8.5 REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS

Regular communications will occur to ensure Council, staff, the community and key stakeholders are kept informed and up to date on project activities. Fortnightly contact with updates will be provided to the COA Project Manager (telephone, email or meeting).

9 ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

9.1 EVALUATION OF ENGAGEMENT

A critical component of the engagement strategy is the monitoring and evaluation of performance. The engagement strategy will be monitored on an ongoing basis against milestones to assess whether it is achieving its objectives.

To determine the suitability or effectiveness of engagement events and strategies, the following will be undertaken:

- Seek feedback from participants (via website, surveys, evaluation forms);
- Record number and type of queries received at events and via engagement mechanisms;

Data gathered through these tools will be evaluated at the completion of each stakeholder engagement event. This evaluation will then inform the implementation of engagement and communication activities of subsequent stages.

The following will be recorded for events and activities:

- Number of participants.
- Collection of names and contact details of participants (where appropriate/ possible).
- Number of participant requests to be on mailing list or for further information.

9.2 REPORTING OUTCOMES TO STAKEHOLDERS

Providing post-engagement feedback reassures the community that the views and concerns of participants were acknowledged and considered. It enables a greater degree of trust and cooperation to be established between the community and decision-makers. It is also important that accurate feedback be given in a timely manner and that throughout the engagement activities, the community is informed of the feedback methodology.

Feedback/ submissions will be expressed clearly and logically in a user-friendly format in the final LBS. This information will form the basis for the COA to share information after the project has been completed and will include an analysis of the information and data obtained and an evaluation of the process administered.

9.3 ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

Recommendations will be provided via the LBS report, regarding ongoing opportunities for stakeholder engagement.

10 REFERENCES

City of Albany (2023a) City of Albany Strategic Community Plan – Albany 2032. <https://www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/2139/strategic-community-plan-2032>

City of Albany (2023b) City of Albany Corporate Business Plan 2023 – 27. <https://www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/2140/corporate-business-plan-2023-2027>

City of Albany (2019) Communications and Engagement Strategy. <https://www.albany.wa.gov.au/documents/613/communications-and-engagement-strategy-2019-2022>

City of Albany (2013) Community Engagement and Communications – Staff Toolkit.

Green Skills (2014) South Coast Natural Resource Management Community Engagement Handbook

Sandiford, E.M. and Barrett, S. (2010). Albany Regional Vegetation Survey, Extent Type and Status, A project funded by the Western Australian Planning Commission (EnviroPlanning “Integrating NRM into Land Use Planning” and State NRM Program), South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. and City of Albany for the Department of Environment and Conservation. Unpublished report. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.

APPENDIX 1

WALGA Guidelines

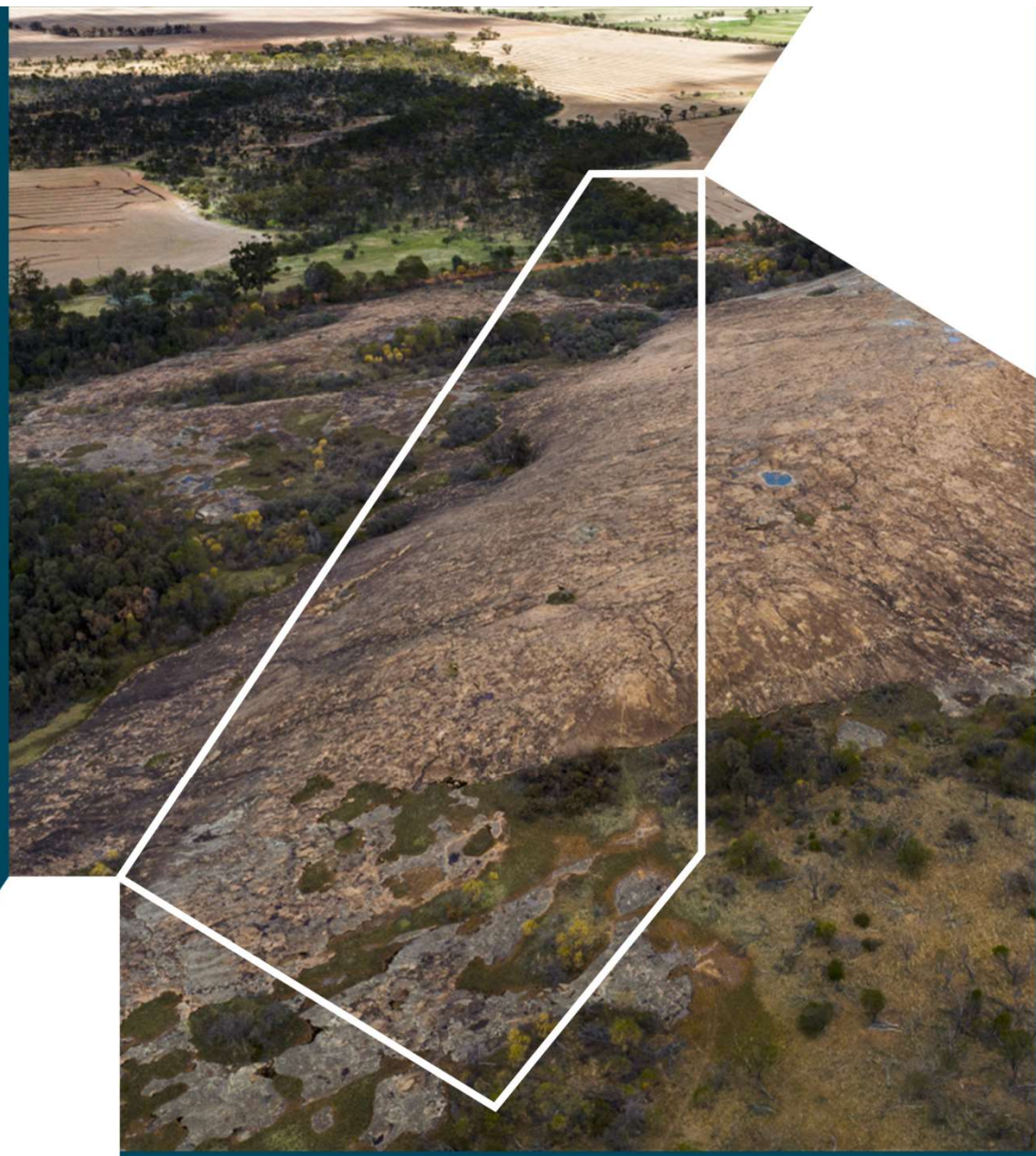


An Introduction to

Local Biodiversity Planning for Local Government

In the South-West of Western Australia

February 2024

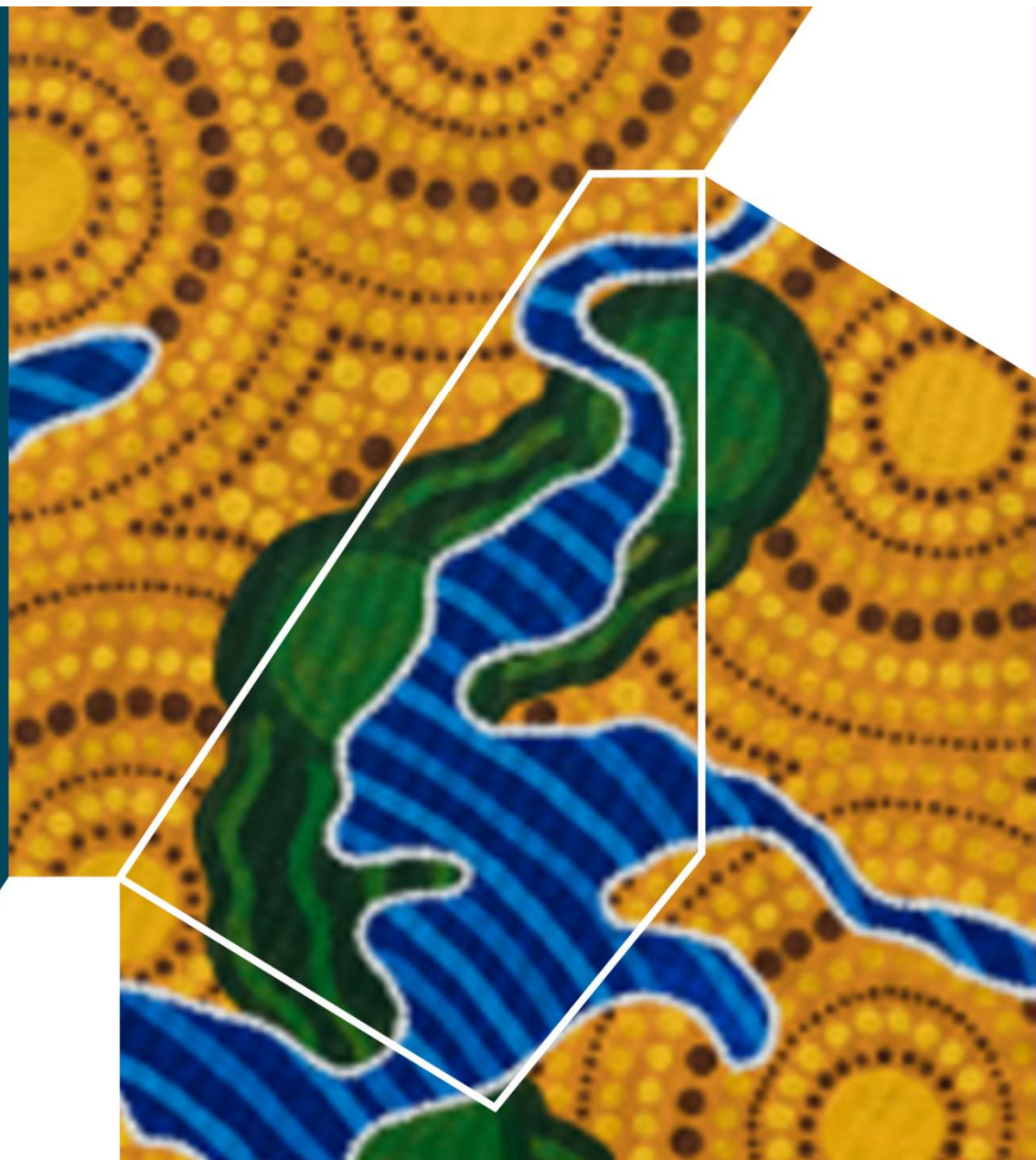




Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

WALGA acknowledges the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community. We embrace the vast Aboriginal cultural diversity throughout Western Australia, including Boorloo (Perth), on the land of the Whadjuk Noongar People, where WALGA is located and we acknowledge and pay respect to Elders past and present.

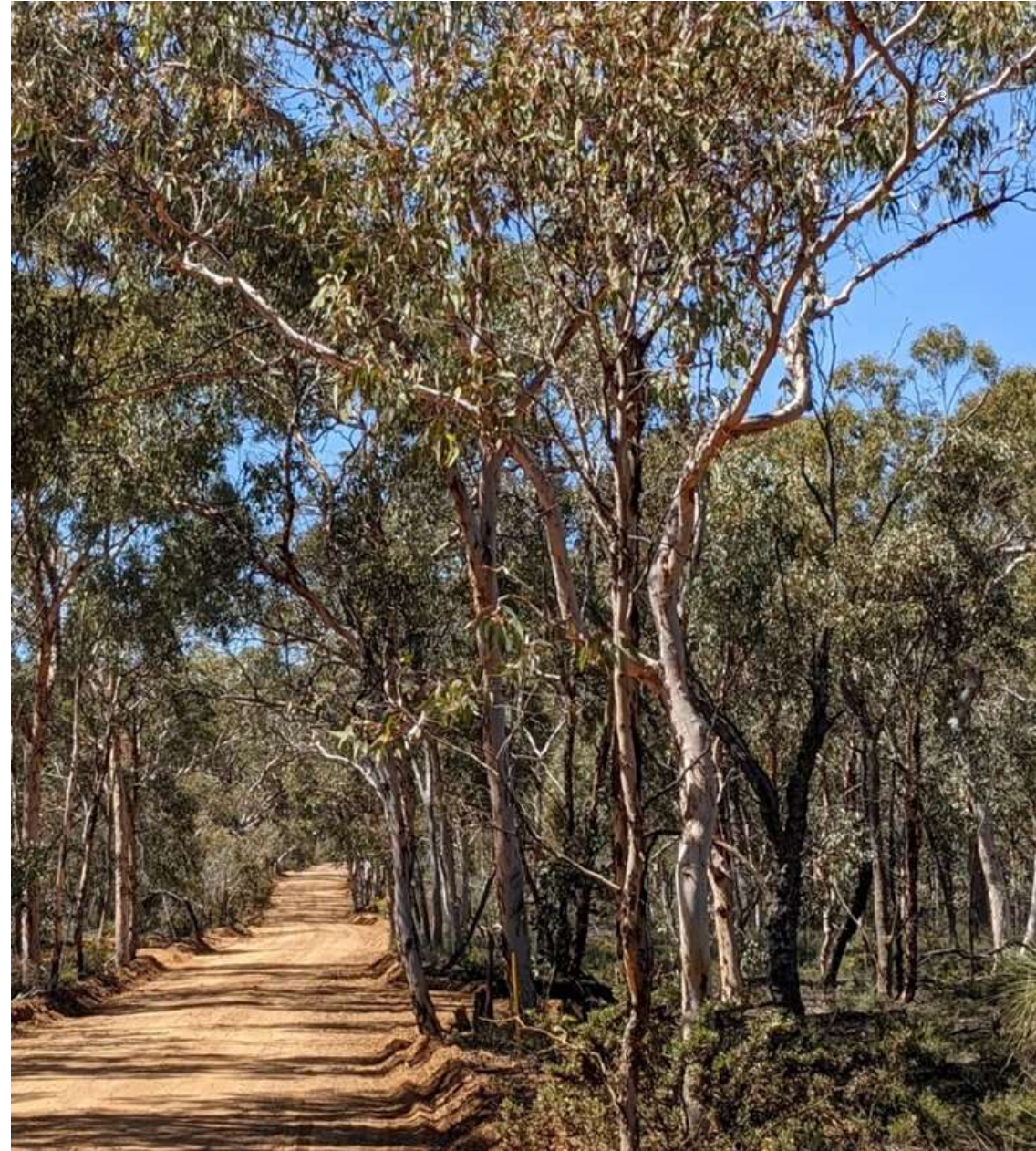
Pictured left: Artwork by Jade Dolman, a young Whadjuk/Ballardong Nyoongar, Eastern Arrernte, Irish woman from Perth.





Overview

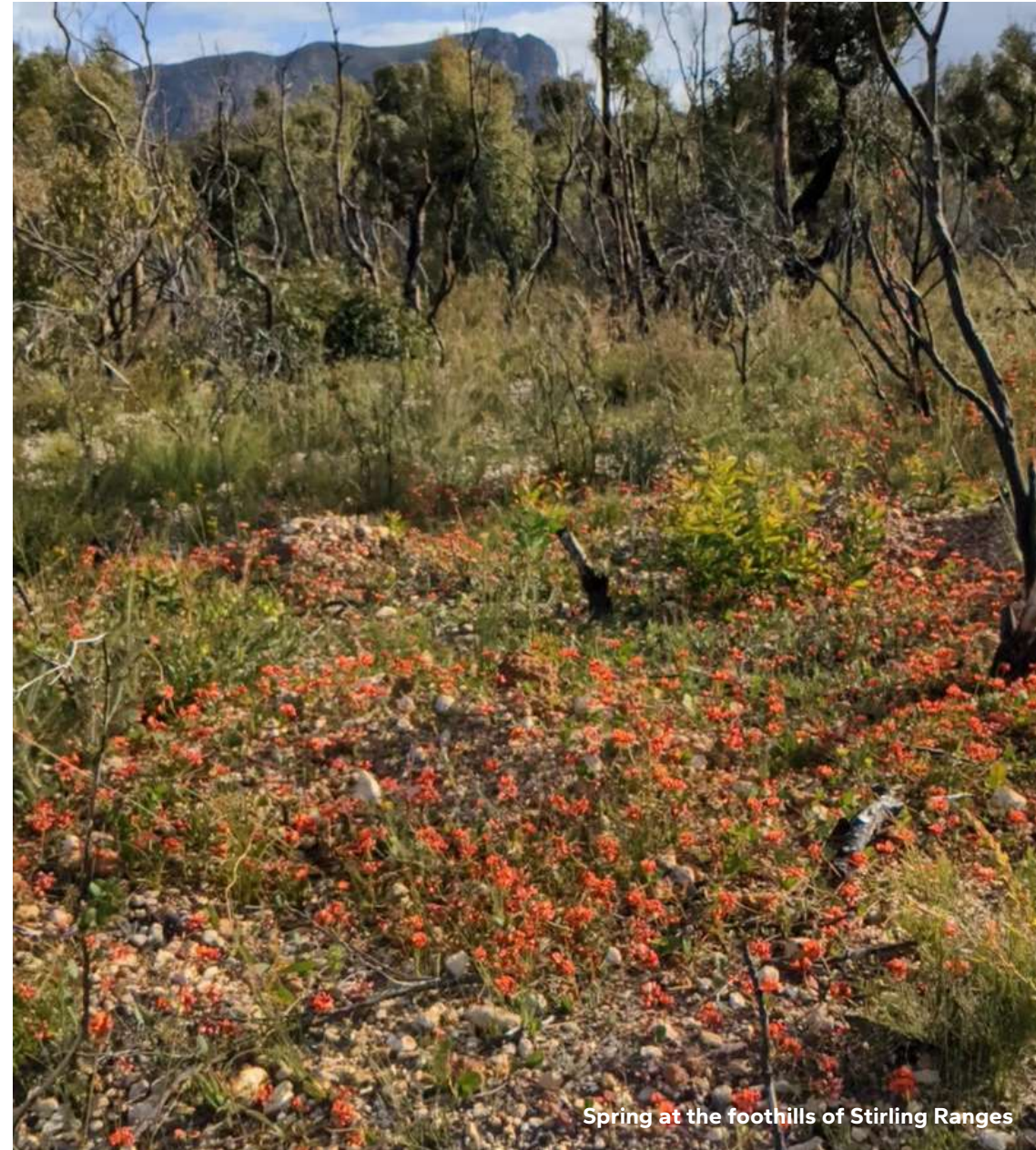
- 1 Local Governments & biodiversity
- 2 Support for local biodiversity planning
- 3 Components of an effective Local Biodiversity Strategy
- 4 What can Local Government influence?
- 5 Benefits of local biodiversity planning





Biodiversity means the variability among living organisms and the ecosystems of which those organisms are a part and includes the following:

- (a) diversity within native species and between native species;
- (b) diversity of ecosystems;
- (c) diversity of other biodiversity components.



Spring at the foothills of Stirling Ranges



Legislation

Australian Government

- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Nature Repair Act 2023*

State Government

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986:*
 - *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*
 - *Environmental Protection (Environmentally Sensitive Areas) Notice 2005*



Eucalyptus woodlands of the Wheatbelt Region of WA, nationally listed threatened ecological community. Photo: Courtesy of Wheatbelt NRM.



Local Governments and Biodiversity

Commonwealth and State Environmental Legislation



Regulator

Land use planning provisions
Development approvals
Enforcement of local laws



Proponent

Planner and manager
of infrastructure
projects



Assets manager

Natural areas in reserves
and freehold land
Native vegetation and
habitat in parks and
roadsides



Facilitator

Community education
and engagement
Volunteer support
Landholder incentives



Local Governments and Biodiversity

- In the Southwest of WA, Local Governments can affect nearly one third of mapped native vegetation through land use planning decisions and land management
- Some vegetation types are unique to a single Local Government area and many are not protected via the State's conservation reserve network
- Some of the State's unique plants have been recorded only from Local Government managed lands; like below examples of threatened plants with all or all but one known location being in local roadsides (Images sourced from Florabase).



Endangered
Found only in the Shires of Toodyay and Victoria Plains



Endangered
Found only in the Shire of Corrigin



Endangered
Found only in the Shire of Esperance



Support for 'local' biodiversity conservation

Urban Bushland Strategy (1995)

Bush Forever (2000)

RESOURCES

GOVERNMENT
POLICY



2001-2012

2008: EPA Guidance Statement No 33



2006-2009

2010: State Planning Policy 2.8

2010: WAPC position

2010: State Administrative Tribunal decision

(Bernardini and WAPC [2010] WASAT 105)



2012-2014

2014: A guide to the assessment of applications clear native vegetation

Planning instruments and other relevant matters

❖ Environmental Events 2014- now

2015: Model text - local scheme provisions:

❖ On-line mapping portal 2014-2021

- Local reserve: Environmental Conservation

❖ Local Biodiversity and Native Vegetation Management Project 2023-2024

2020: Guidance for planning & development: Protection of naturally vegetated areas in urban and peri-urban areas

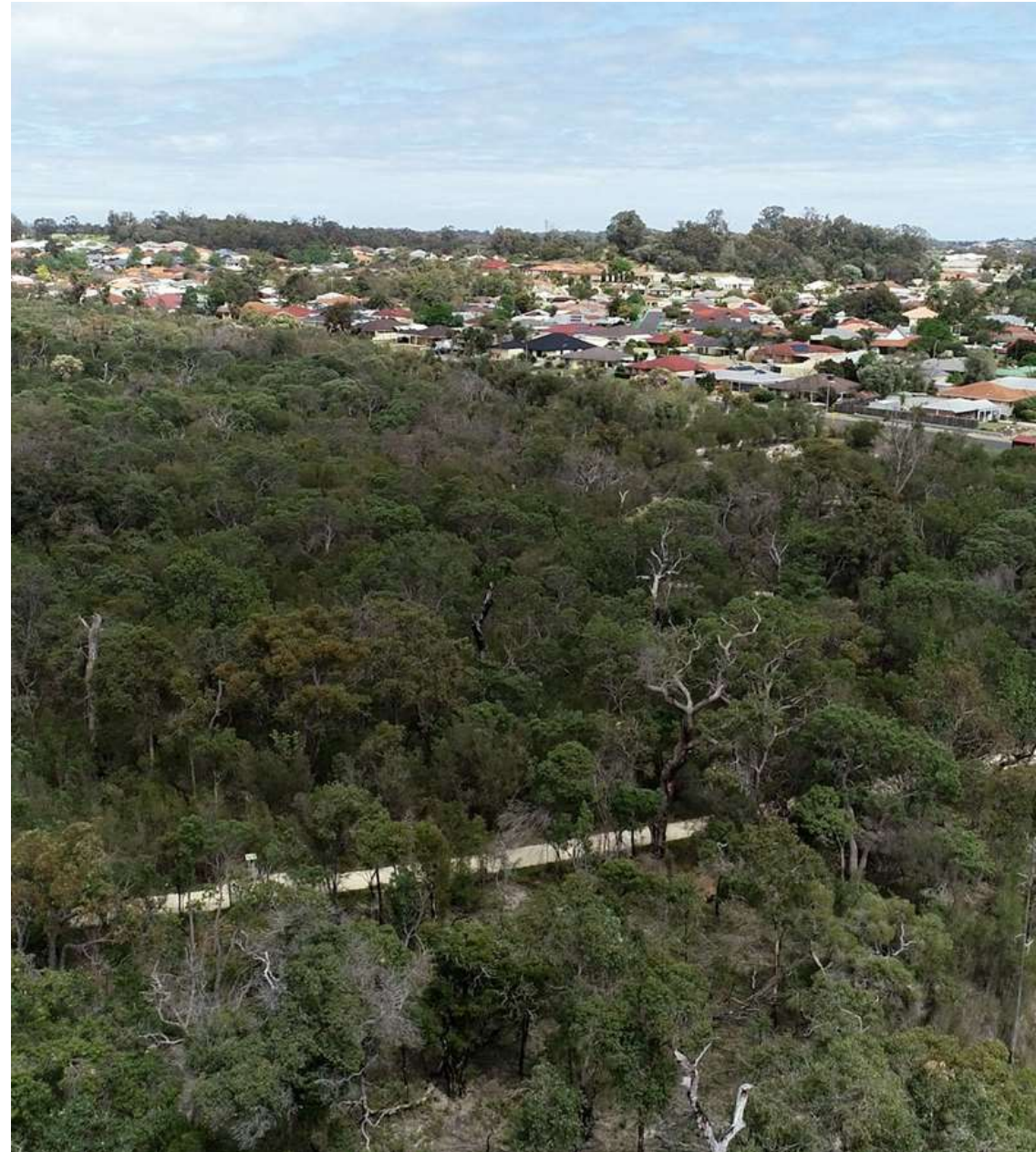
WALGA
initiatives



What is a Local Biodiversity Strategy?

A local biodiversity strategy provides for:

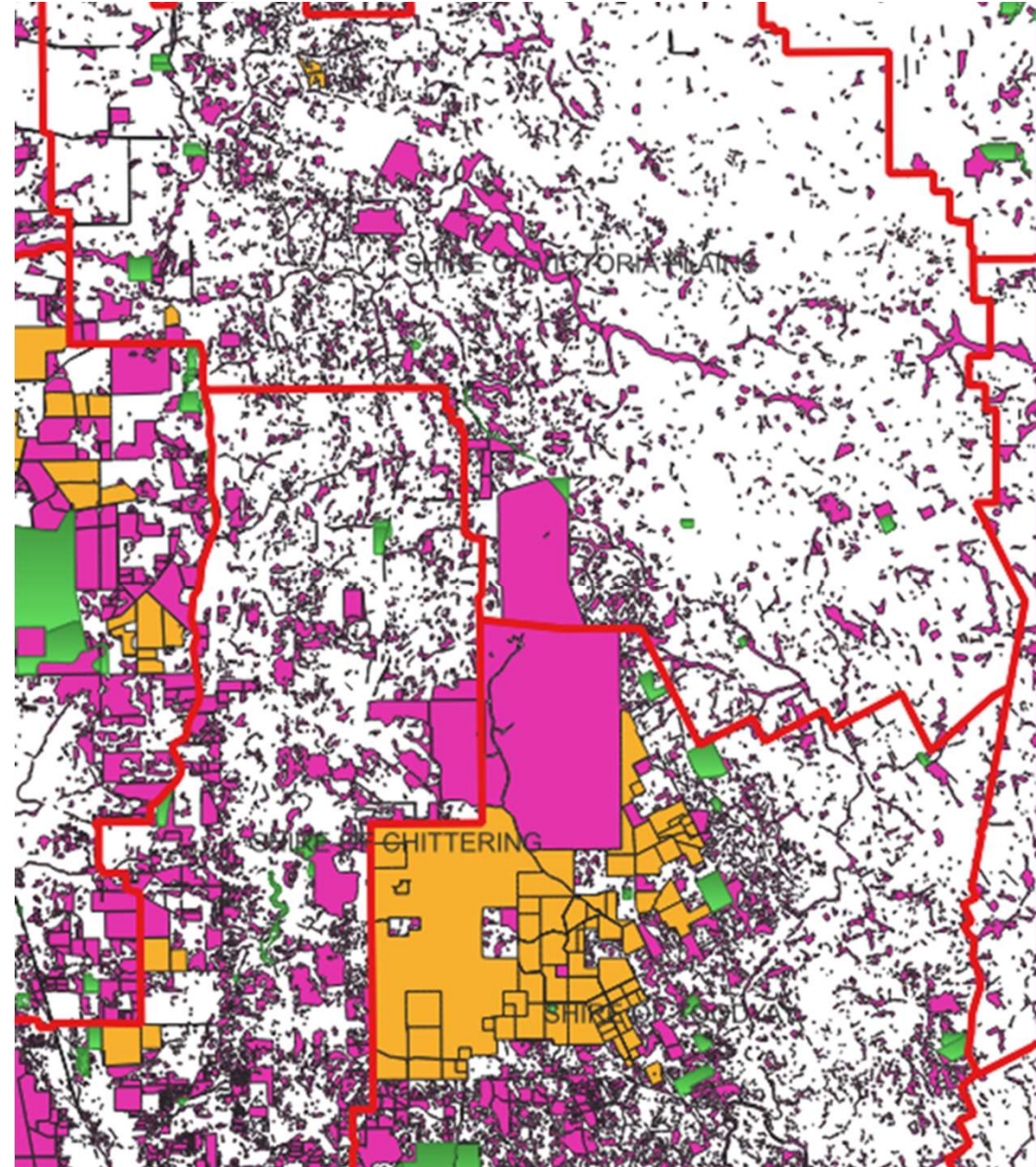
- the identification local natural areas, the biodiversity they support and their conservation significance/priorities,
- the assessment of local opportunities and constraints to protection of natural areas, and for
- the identification of ways to achieve local biodiversity conservation objectives and targets.





Key features of an effective Local Biodiversity Strategy

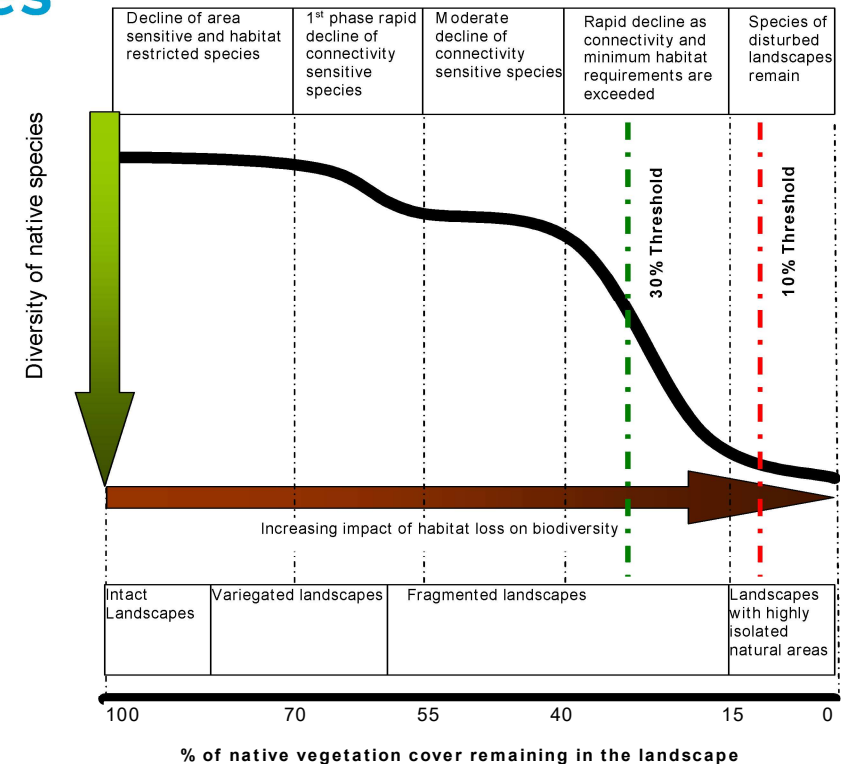
- 1 Focus on 'Local Natural Areas' including biodiversity on public and private lands
- 2 Objectives and targets are based on spatial analysis, consistent endorsed criteria and considered in the regional context
- 3 Include a bushland protection map and/or local conservation priorities maps
- 4 An action plan that integrates biodiversity consideration into all areas of Local Government functions
- 5 Prepared in consultation with relevant stakeholders and endorsed by the Council.





Local Biodiversity Planning Principles

1. Retention of at least 30% of the pre-European extent of each ecological community is required to prevent an exponential loss of species and failure of ecosystem processes.
2. Protect regionally and locally significant natural areas
3. Biodiversity is best conserved in-situ – protect what remains before revegetating
4. Regeneration is a higher priority than revegetation



Biodiversity loss in relation to native vegetation loss (Smith & Siversten 2001)



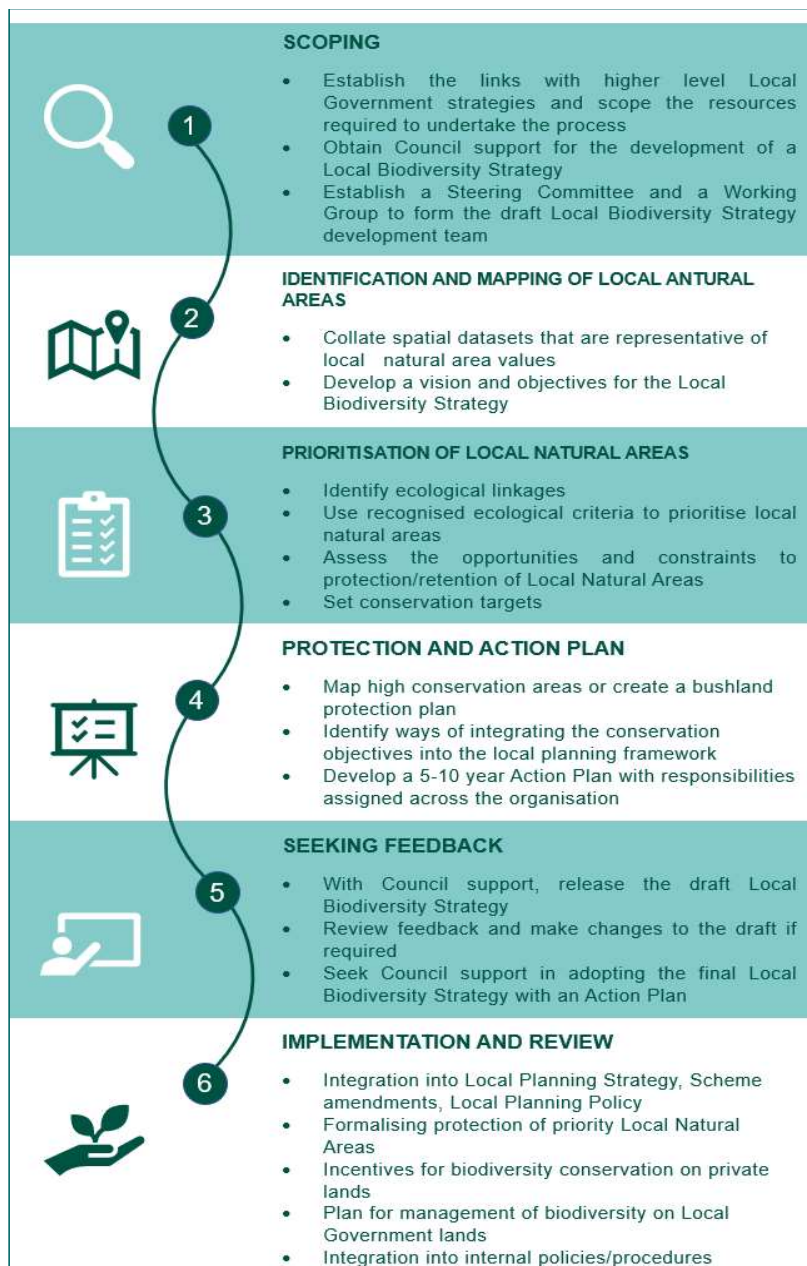
Local Biodiversity Planning Principles

5. Prioritise protection and management of the highest biodiversity value natural areas
6. Support community involvement in biodiversity conservation
7. Biodiversity values must be made transparent in decision-making
8. Site specific field survey is essential to understand biodiversity value
9. Natural area conservation is a legitimate land use





Local Biodiversity Planning Phases



2 months
after
securing
resources

1 month

2 months

3 months

2-3
months

5-10
years

Scoping

- Establish links with the Strategic Community Plan
 - Scope the resources required
 - Obtain Council support
-
- Establish a Steering Committee (Terms of Reference):
 - Two Elected Members, Executive Managers (planning and asset management), Community representatives
-
- Set up a Working Group:
 - Staff from planning, infrastructure and natural area management
-
- Develop a project plan allowing for public consultation





Identification and mapping of Local Natural Areas



- Collate spatial datasets that are representative of local natural area values (see list in the Local Biodiversity Planning Guidelines), including metadata
- Develop a vision and objectives for the Local Biodiversity Strategy (via Stakeholder Reference Group)

Local natural areas (LNAs) are defined as natural areas that exist outside lands managed by the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Regional Parks, and Bush Forever Areas (Del Marco et al, 2004).



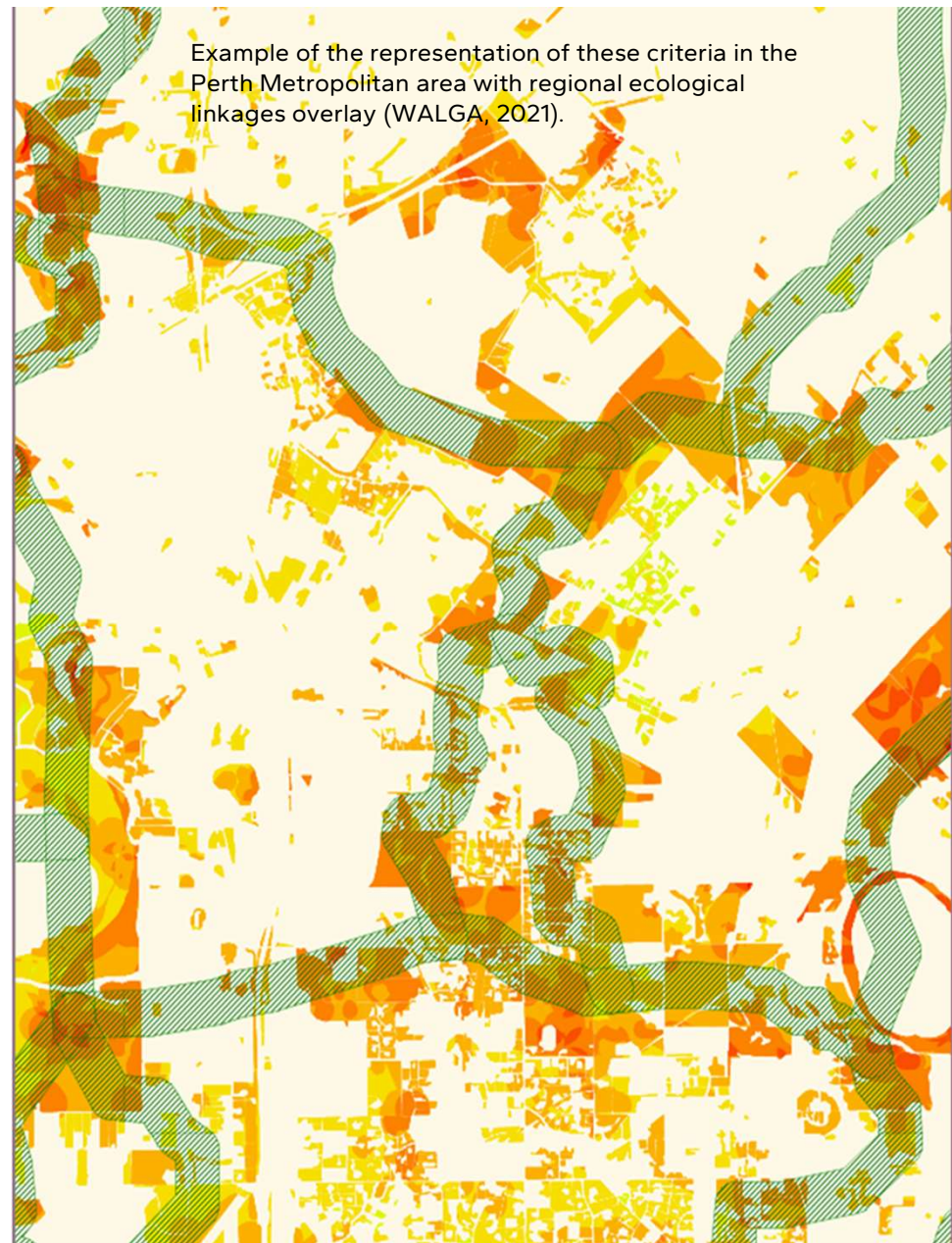
Prioritisation of Local Natural Areas

The ecological criteria categories (State endorsed):

- Areas of recognised international, national or regional values which could include areas of scientific or evolutionary importance.
- Representation of ecological communities including vegetation unique to Local Government area
- Diversity – priority species and communities
- Rarity – threatened species and ecological communities
- Maintenance of ecological processes or natural systems (connectivity)
- Protection of wetland, streamline, estuarine and coastal vegetation.

- Identify ecological linkages
- Use recognised ecological criteria to prioritise local natural areas
- Assess the opportunities and constraints to protection/retention of Local Natural Areas
- Where appropriate, determine conservation targets

Example of the representation of these criteria in the Perth Metropolitan area with regional ecological linkages overlay (WALGA, 2021).





An example of prioritisation criteria that combines two levels of vegetation type mapping

Table 3 Conservation Significance Criteria for the Geraldton. This shows reasoning for assigning significance categories, combining the criteria used for PCs, BVAs and additional information.

Cons. Sig.	Description of reason for significance	Vegetation descriptors	Additional information
Regionally significant natural areas			
1A	Vegetation within BVAs with <10% of Pre European extent remaining in WA	BVA 35 & BVA 371 and PCs floristically associated with BVA 35 (PC16 & PC17)	Highly restricted vegetation associations, priority for inclusion into the NAR system by both the Federal and State Government. BVA 371 is the highest priority for conservation in the study area as it used to be a common and now its extent only represents 5.7% of the total area (from 29%)
1A	GRFVS PCs potentially restricted to study area	PC4, PC5, PC9, PC11, PC14	Descriptions of these PCs include characteristics not identified in similar studies outside the study area. Additional detailed surveys are required to confirm this status.
1A	Contains (records) of DRF	DEC database	In patches > 20 ha, a 50 m buffer is applied to a spot location, otherwise the whole patch is selected.
1A	Contains Threatened and Protected Ecological Communities (TEC, PEC)	PC15	Priority 1 EC recorded
1A	Natural areas with high diversity of flora species	PC15, PC16	Include records of several listed flora and recorded the highest species diversity in the study area
1A	Coastal vegetation on foredunes and secondary dunes	PC 3, PC4, PC5, PC6, PC 8, PC9	
1A	Estuarine fringing vegetation	PC1	
1A	Floodplain area	Mapped for Chapman River, otherwise Soil Landscape Units are used to identify	Floodplains are generally no-development zones due to risk of damage to infrastructure. Any native vegetation occurring on or buffering floodplains is important for soil stability and the health of the river system. Regularly inundated floodplains can also support a wide range of fauna.
1A	Riparian vegetation	PC2	
1A	Significant wetland	No significant wetlands have been mapped in study area	
1B	Vegetation within BVAs with <30% Pre European Extent remaining in WA	BVA 675 and BVA 359 and PCs associated with BVAs (PC13 & PC15)	The portion of BVA 359 within the GRFVS area declined from its original extent
1B	Contains (records) of Priority or other significant flora	DEC database	In patches >20 ha, a 50 m buffer is applied to a spot location, otherwise the whole patch is selected.
1C	Vegetation within Beard Vegetation Association with >30% Pre-European extend remaining in WA but with local proportion of the original extent declining below the 30% threshold	BVA 413 and PCs floristically associated with BVA 413 (PC15)	To conserve BVA 413 regionally, > 509 ha should be retained and protected within GRFVS area. 509ha would represent 30% of the original extent. However, only 316 ha remain locally, which means that the GRFVS portion declined from 41.86% to 19%. No other occurrences of BVA 413 are in adjoining IBRA sub-regions so it's assumed that they would be different in floristic composition on finer scale.
Locally significant natural areas			
2A	Vegetation within BVAs with >30% Pre European Extent remaining in WA but <30% remaining in GRFVS Area and inadequately reserved in WA	BVA 387 and PCs floristically associated with BVA 387 (PC11 and PC12)	
2A	PCs with <400ha remaining or PCs within 10% of the 400ha threshold	PC7, PC14, PC16, PC17	
2A	Natural areas with high diversity of flora species	PC12, PC13, PC14	Recorded high species diversity in the study area
2B	BVAs with >30% Pre European Extent remaining in WA and >30% remaining in GRFVS Area but threatened by future development and inadequately reserved in WA	BVA 440	Over 70% of extent within zoning with limited opportunities for vegetation retention and protection
3	BVAs with >30% Pre European Extent in WA and >30% in GRFVS Area but inadequately reserved in WA or locally	BVA 431 BVA 129	

Source: https://www.cgg.wa.gov.au/documents/1196/geraldton_local_biodiversity_strategy-2013



Protection and Action Plan

- Map areas of high conservation priority and/or create a bushland protection plan
- Identify ways of integrating biodiversity conservation objectives into the local planning framework
- Prioritise local government managed lands for further investigations ([NAIA Templates](#)) and management
- Develop a 5-10 years Action Plan with responsibilities assigned across the organisation

Examples:

Greater Bunbury Region Scheme

Shire of Mundaring Local Planning Strategy (2009) and Local Planning Scheme No. 4

Shire of Chittering Local Planning Strategy (2019) and Local Planning Scheme No. 6

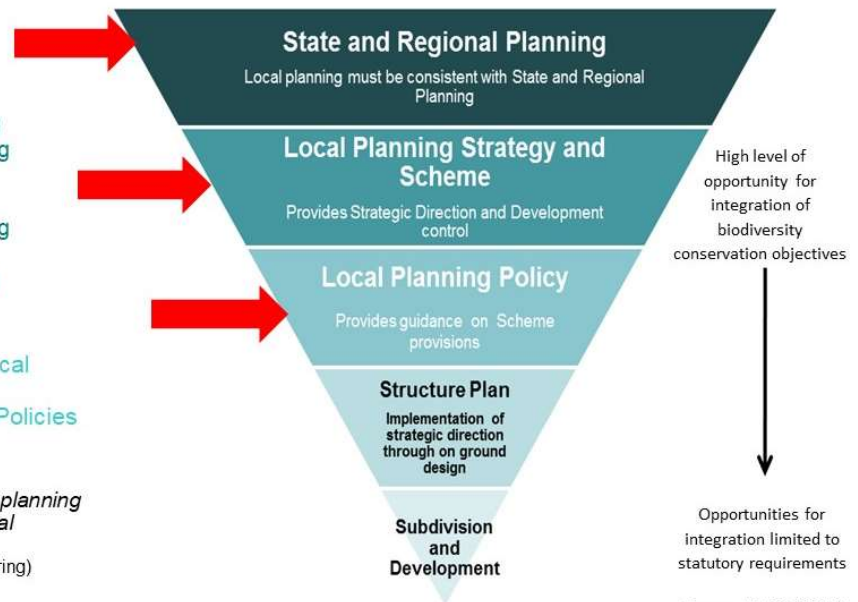
City of Wanneroo District Planning Scheme Amendment No. 109

Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale Local Planning Policy 26

City of Wanneroo Local Planning Policies 4.1, 4.3, 4.13

Examples of structure and subdivision planning supported by recommendations in Local Biodiversity Strategies:

- Shire of Chittering (Bindoon, Lower Chittering)
- Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale (Byford)
- City of Wanneroo (Banksia Grove)





Local Biodiversity Strategies and State Government processes

Land use planning

State recognition of local biodiversity conservation objectives is achieved through the endorsement of a local planning strategy by the WAPC when they become a component of a local planning strategy and are based on a local biodiversity strategies prepared:

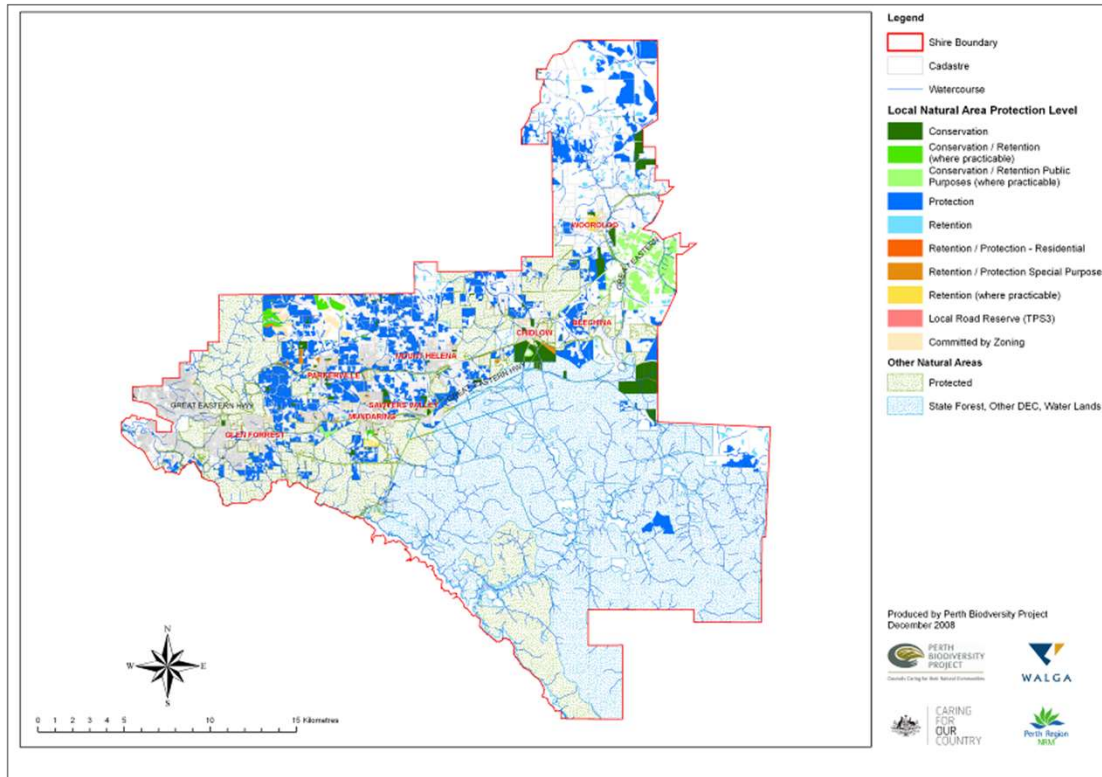
- in accordance with the endorsed methodology,
- in consultation with relevant stakeholders,
- endorsed by the Council.

Native vegetation clearing regulations

Can be a consideration in the assessment of clearing permit applications



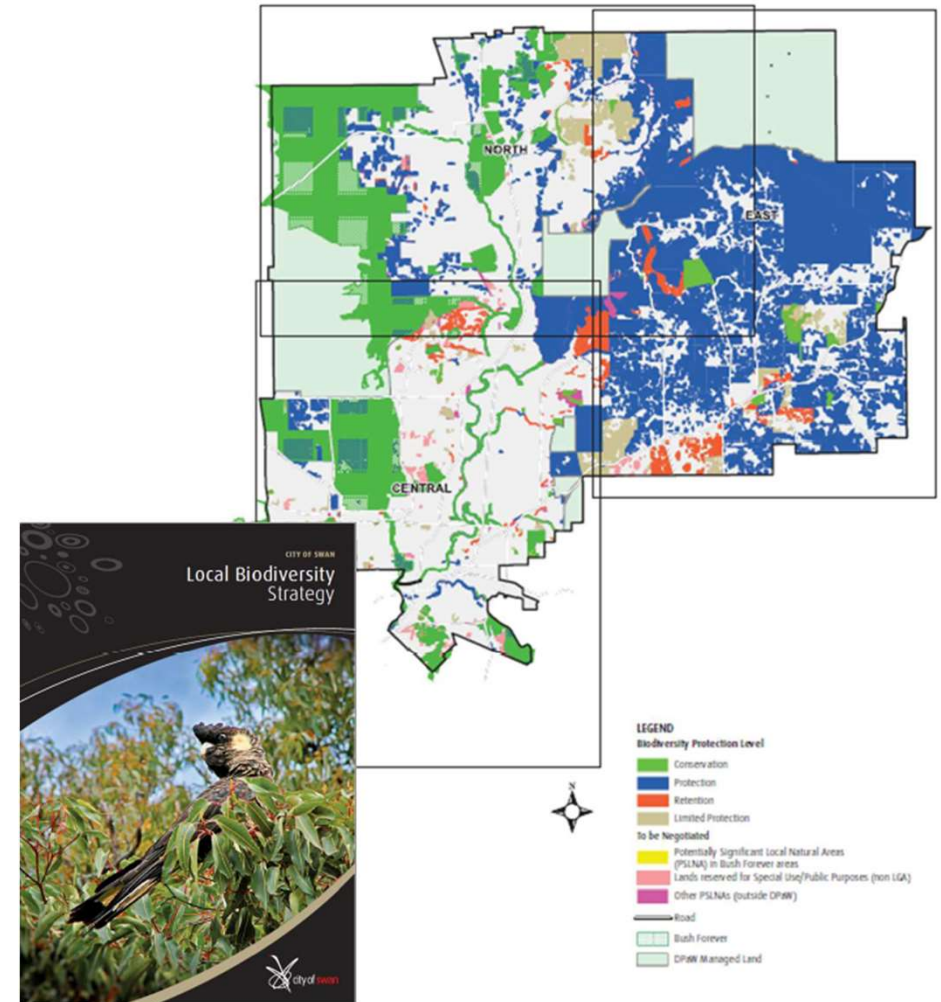
Examples of bushland protection maps



Shire of Mundaring (2009 & 2023)

– to help with implementation of conservation targets on private lands, the Shire introduced a very effective 'Environmental Asset Inspections Service'

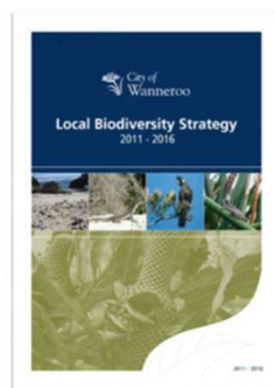
City of Swan (2004 & 2014)





Examples of bushland protection maps

Shire of Wanneroo (2011 & 2018)



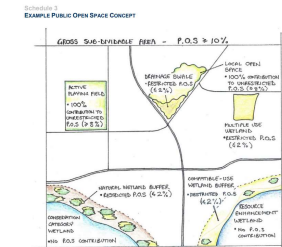
LOCAL BIODIVERSITY PLAN
2018/19 - 2023/24

Outcomes:

- LPP 1.1: Conservation Reserve
- LPP 4.1: Wetlands
- LPP 4.3: POS
- LPP 4.8: Tree preservation
- LPP 4.13: Caves & Karst Features

Differences with the City's first Local Biodiversity Strategy:

- Amended Local Natural Area definition
- No quantitative targets for vegetation complexes



Nature POS

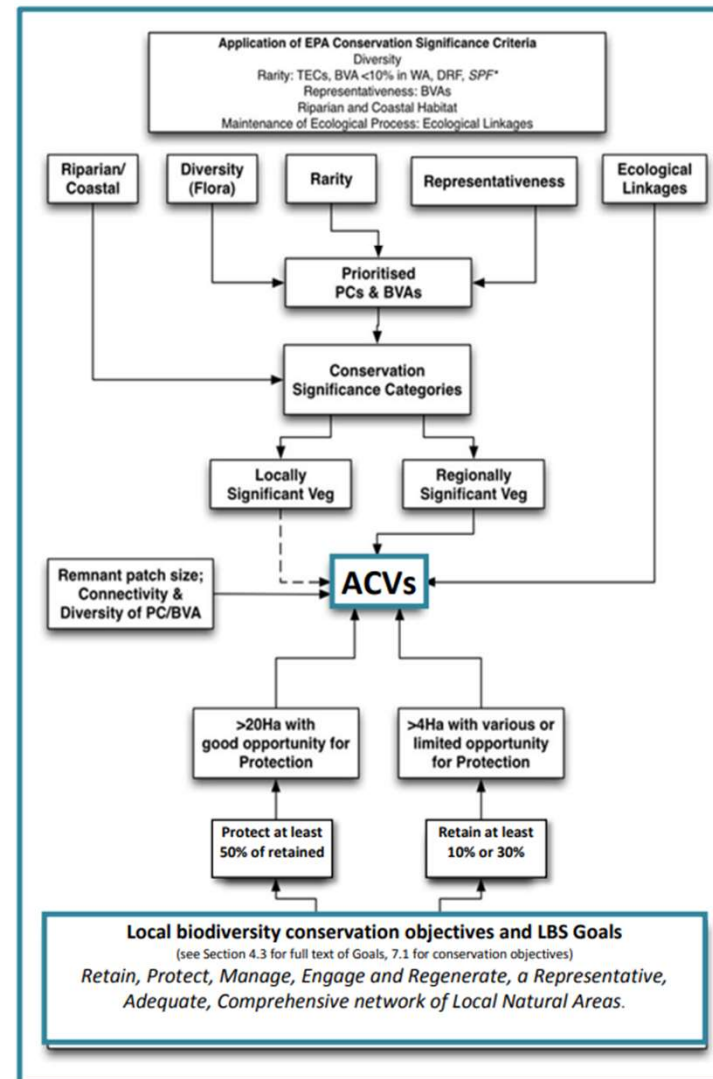
3.8 A minimum of three percent (3%) of the gross sub-divisible area shall be provided as POS for the purposes of conservation and recreation where any of the following significant natural assets exist:

- ☐ Threatened and Priority Ecological Communities;
- ☐ Declared Rare and Priority Flora Species;
- ☐ Specially Protected and Priority Fauna Species;
- ☐ Matters of National Environmental Significance (as per The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999);
- ☐ Wetlands (in accordance with Schedule 1);
- ☐ Karstic features e.g. caves and pinnacles;
- ☐ Vegetation complexes with less than 30% of their original extent remaining (as detailed in the City's Local Biodiversity Strategy);
- ☐ Coastal Vegetation;
- ☐ Significant Trees (as defined by the City's Tree Preservation Policy).

3.9 Where less than 3% of the subdivisible area has natural assets worth conserving, the maximum shall be retained.



Examples of bushland protection maps

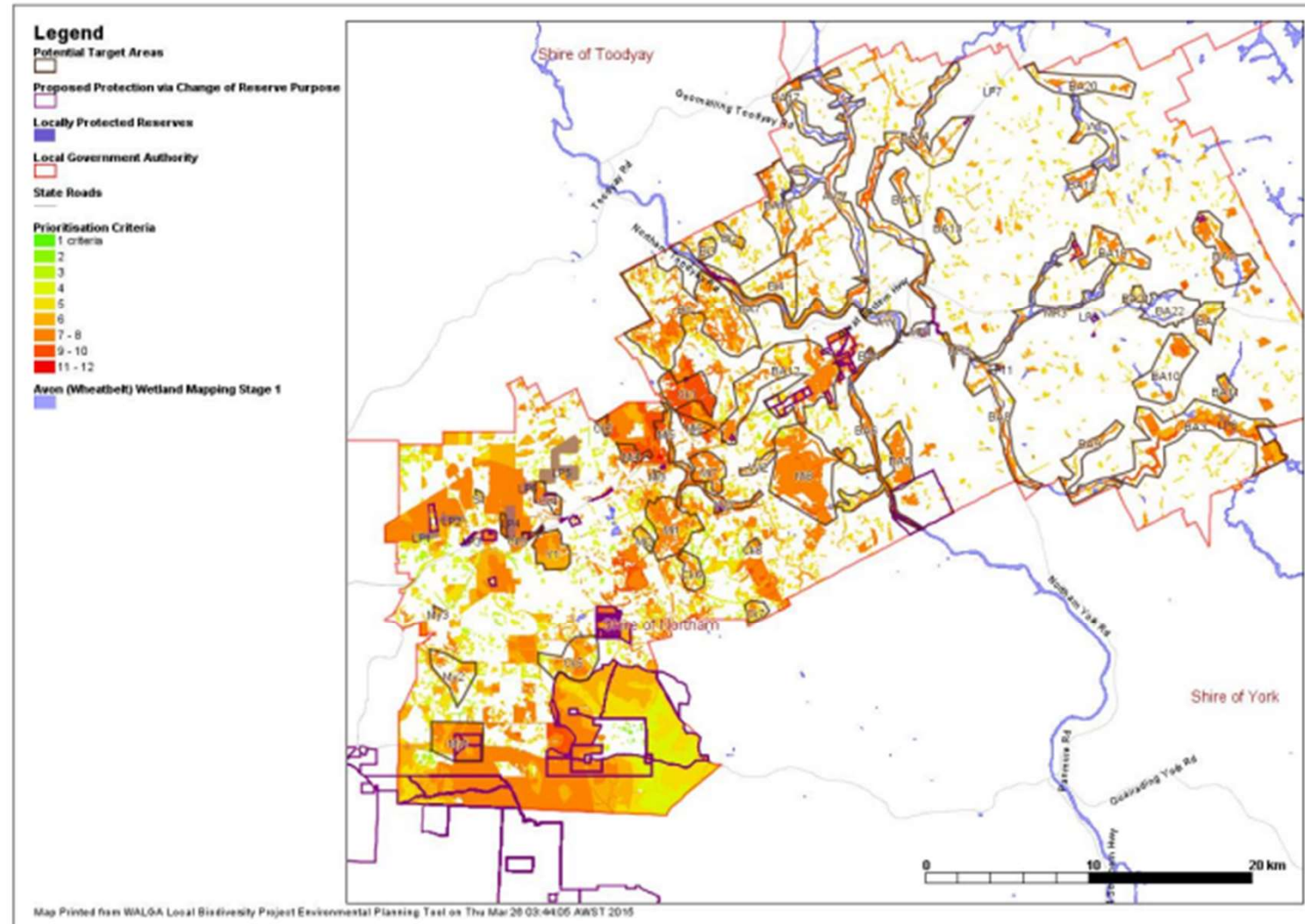
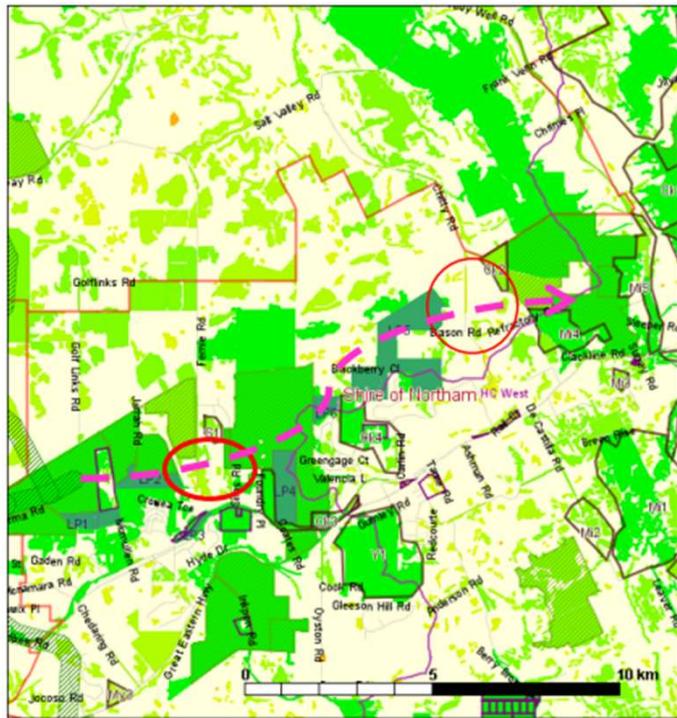


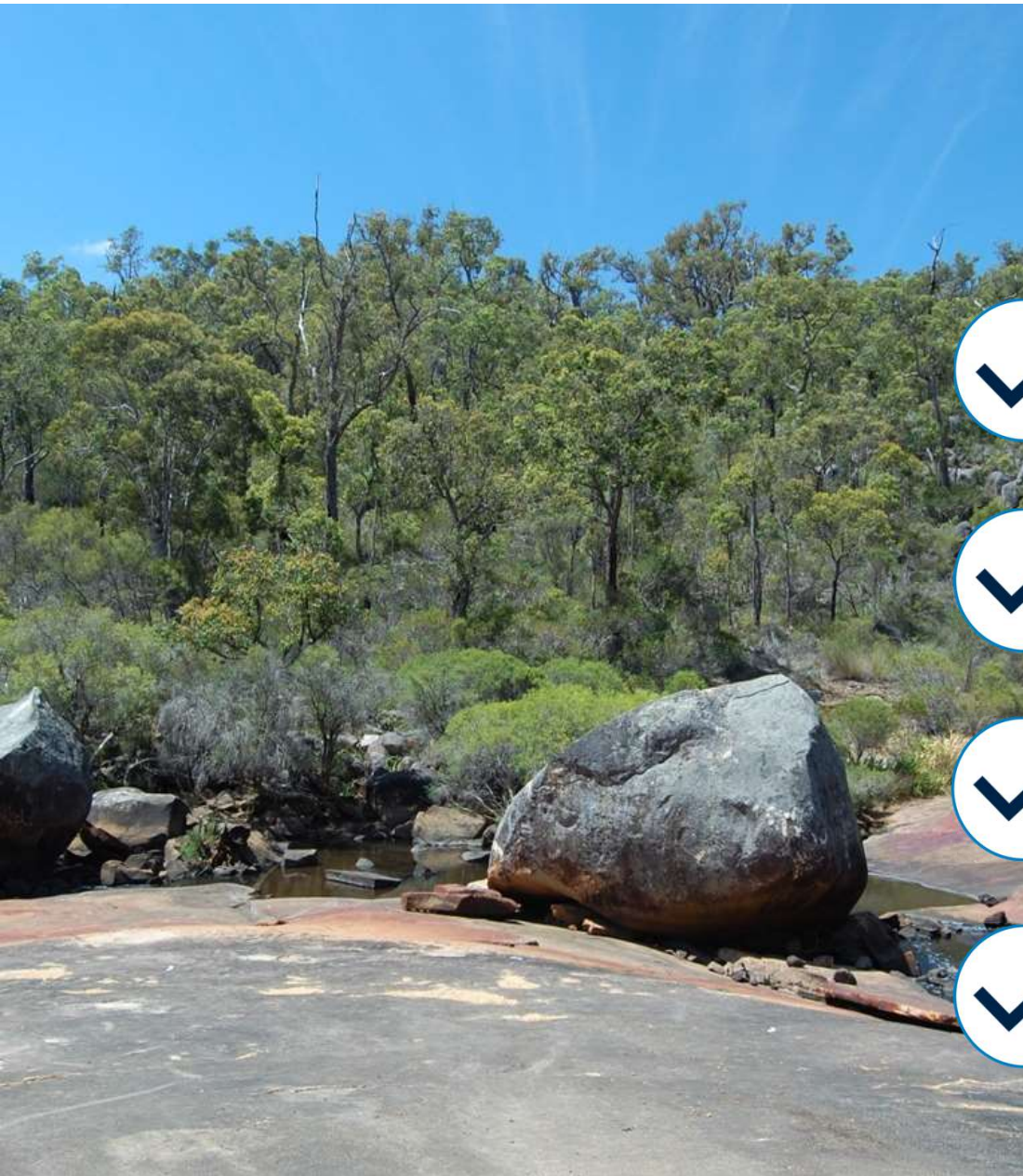
[City of Greater Geraldton \(2013\)](#)



Examples of bushland protection maps

Shire of Northam (2014)





Action Plan



Integration into land use planning
Internal mapping systems



Management of lands vested in Local
Government



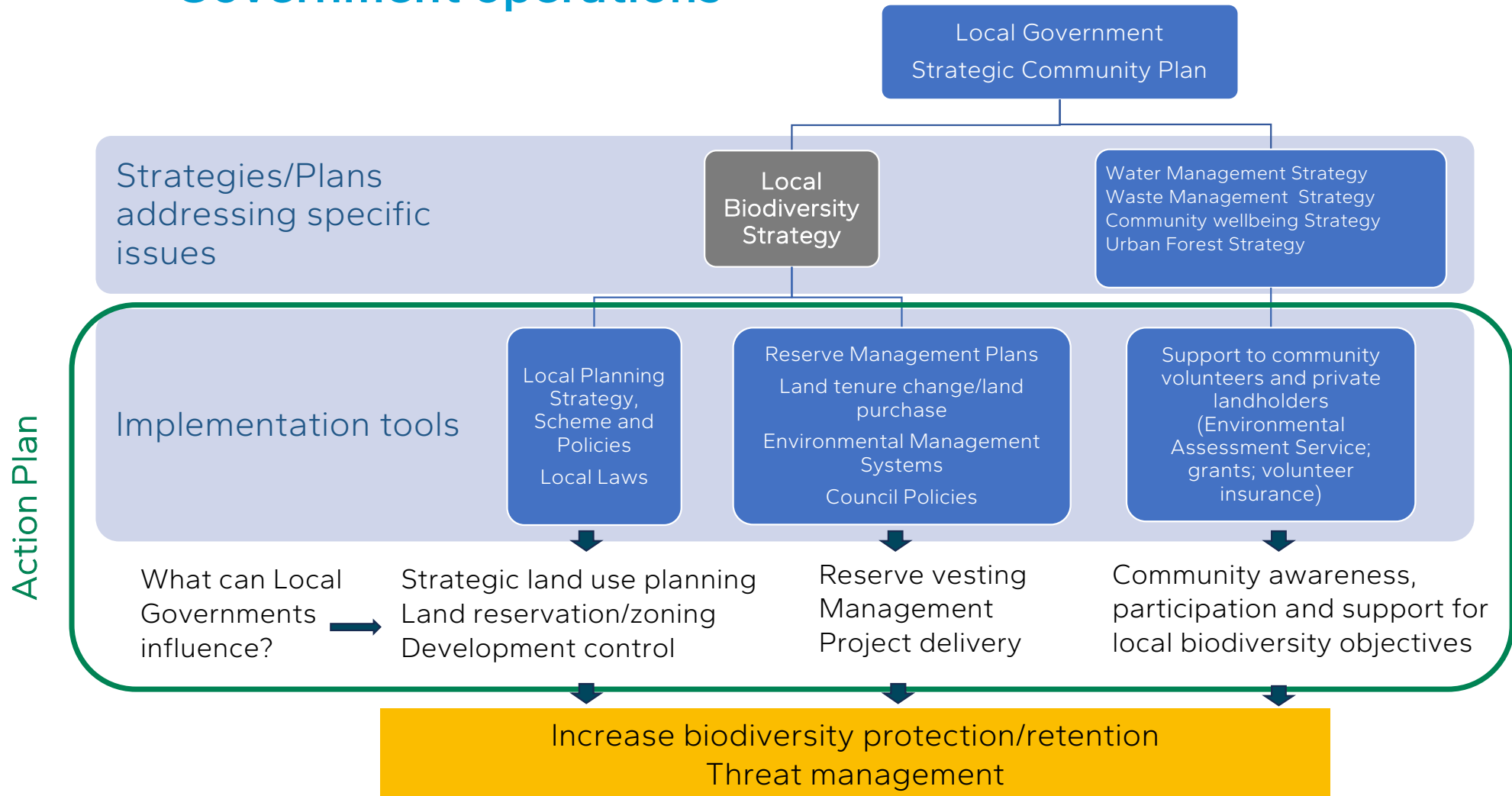
Private landholder incentives



Community engagement and volunteer support



Integrations of biodiversity considerations in Local Government operations





Consultation, Implementation and Review



- With Council support, invite public comments on draft Local Biodiversity Strategy
- Review feedback and make changes to the draft if required
- Seek Council support in adopting the final Local Biodiversity Strategy with an Action Plan



- Review every 5-10 years to adapt prioritisation and implementation actions

WALGA Support

Identification of Local Natural Area and mapping data for local natural area prioritisation

(Download data via DataWA @ [Western Australian Local Government Association - Organisations - data.wa.gov.au](https://data.wa.gov.au))

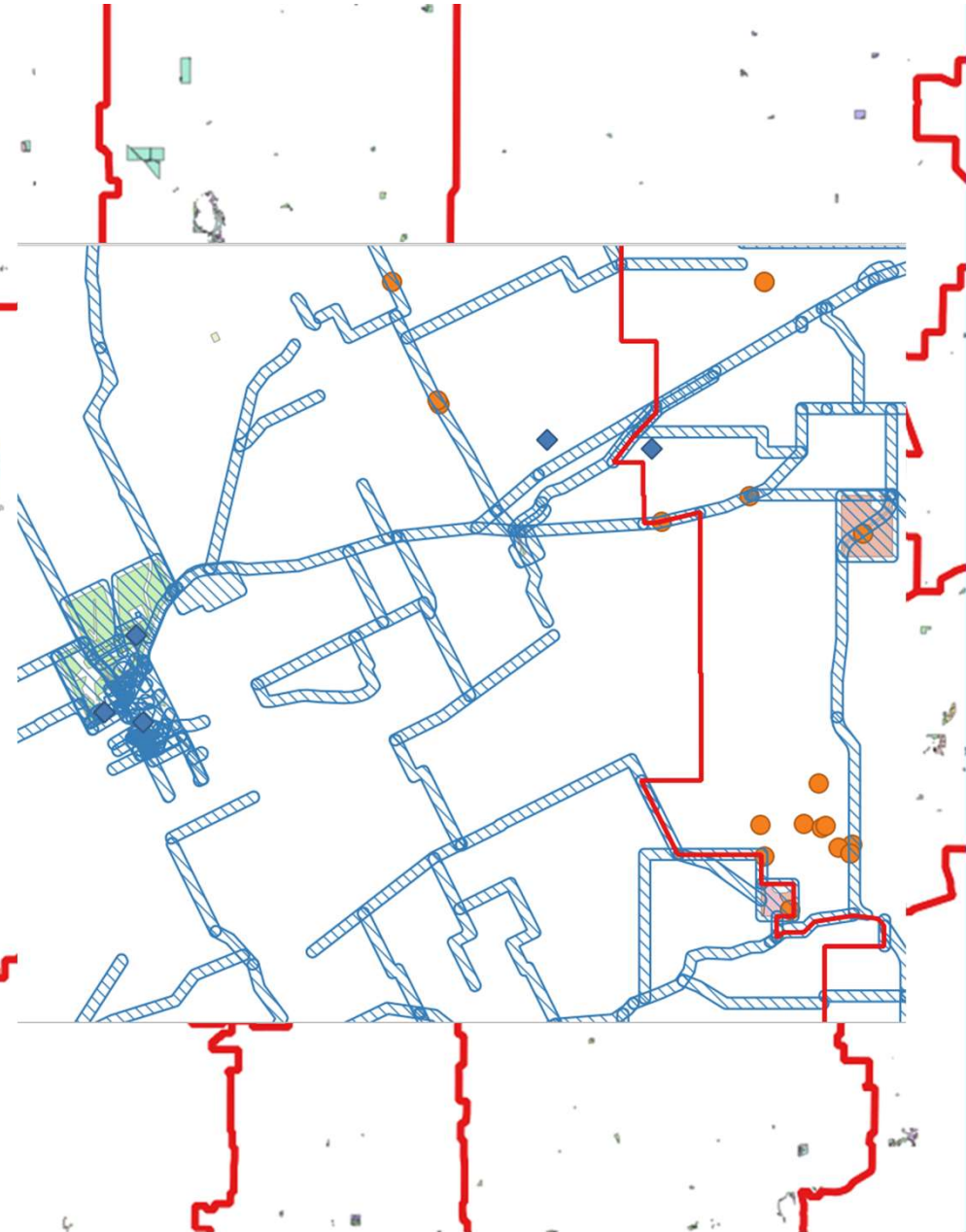
Assistance with the development of prioritisation criteria, establishment of the Steering Committee

Advice on the local biodiversity conservation planning process and on integrating biodiversity into land use planning

1

2

3





Benefits of Local Biodiversity Strategies

- Catalyst for early consideration of biodiversity in land use planning;
- Support for land use/development application decisions as recognised a valid consideration in land use planning as noted by the WA Planning Commission, EPA and the State Administrative Tribunal
- Increased transparency on what 'significant' vegetation or natural area means locally and where these 'significant' areas are located;
- Local protection targets contribute to improved conservation status of biodiversity at regional levels;
- Catalyst for identification of opportunities for restoration (local reserves, ecological linkages);
- Catalyst for mainstreaming biodiversity across Local Government operations and meeting regulatory requirements for Local Government infrastructure projects and operations.

Contribution to conservation

In Perth and Peel, 60% of remaining vegetation in 8 Local Government areas with quantitative targets for protection adopted via Local Biodiversity Strategies; Implementation of targets for the Darling Scarp vegetation complex could prevent its decline below the 30% threshold

Shire of Chittering – protection target is over 6,328 ha

Shire of Mundaring – increased regional protection status for two vegetation complexes by 1%

Shire of Augusta-Margaret River - Natural areas representative of eight vegetation complexes are protected only through the Shire's Local Planning Scheme provisions of three zones

In the portion of the City of Greater Geraldton and the Shire of Chapman Valley – more than 1,000 hectares to be protected and at least 1,500 hectares restored to achieve 10% native vegetation coverage

1

2

3

4





Examples of Local Governments which adopted Local Biodiversity Strategies and Local Planning Schemes with zones or local reserves protecting biodiversity:

Shire of Mundaring

City of Wanneroo

Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale

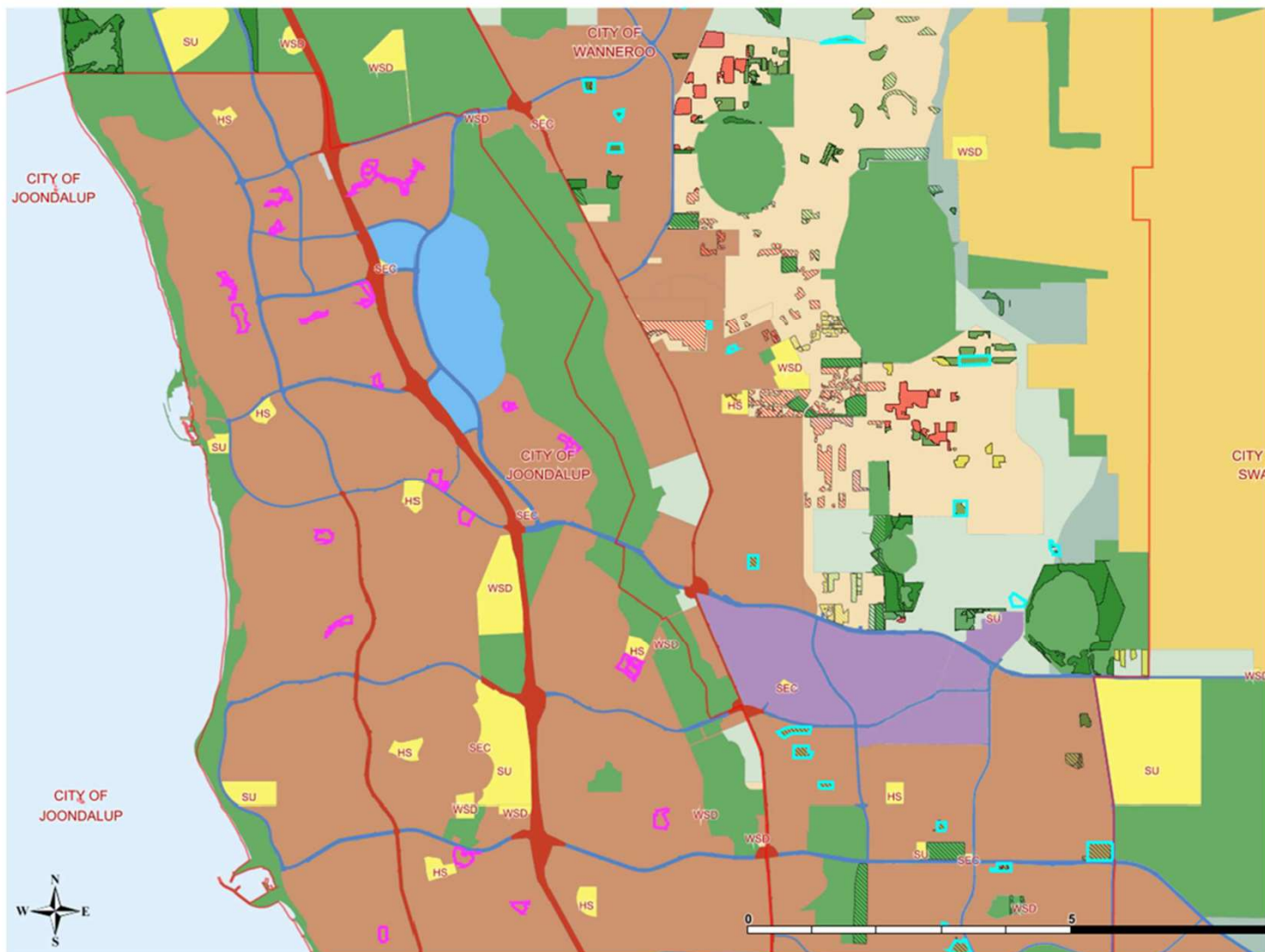
Shire of Chittering

City of Greater Geraldton

Shire of Northam

City of Joondalup

City of Swan



Local conservation type reserves over Metropolitan Region Scheme land use categories. Source: LGmap WALGA, 2021



Local Biodiversity Planning Summary



Strategic benefits

- Effective compliance with environmental regulations
- Transparency in decision making
- Early consideration of environmental matters in project planning
- An instrument for delivering on Local Government Strategic Community Plan objectives



Resources

- Updated Local Government Guidelines for Biodiversity Planning
- NAIA Templates
- Mapping data
- Technical support/advice



Local Biodiversity Strategy

- Focus on Local Natural Areas
- Consistent criteria in the regional context
- Bushland protection map
- Action plan for each business area



Biodiversity Outcomes

- Improved biodiversity outcomes at local and regional levels
- Opportunities for increasing community awareness



Contact

For further information email
to environment@walga.asn.au

Resources

To download resources supporting local
biodiversity planning visit [WALGA's website](https://www.walga.asn.au)

To download mapping data, go to

[Western Australian Local Government
Association - Organisations - data.wa.gov.au](https://data.wa.gov.au)

Acknowledgements

Photo credits: Where not listed, WALGA

This Project is supported by funding
from the Western Australian
Government's State NRM Program



natural resource
management program

