

**DIS458: CITY OF ALBANY - WATERWISE ALBANY STRATEGY**

<b>Proponent / Owner</b>	: City of Albany
<b>Attachments</b>	: Waterwise Albany Strategy
<b>Report Prepared By</b>	: Climate and Sustainability Project Officer
<b>Authorising Officer:</b>	: Executive Director Infrastructure, Development & Environment

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

1. This item relates to the following elements of the City of Albany Strategic Community Plan or Corporate Business Plan informing plans or strategies:
  - **Pillar:** 2. Planet. We are leaders in sustainability with a shared commitment to climate action and protecting our beautiful, natural environment
  - **Outcome:** 2.2 Shared responsibility for climate action.
  - **Objective** 2.2.1 Reduce water usage.
  - **Action:** 2.2.2 Provide a Waterwise Strategy.

**In Brief:**

- The Waterwise Albany Strategy 2026 is presented for Council adoption.
- The Strategy provides a 10-year framework to guide how the City manages water within its control and works with others where it does not have direct responsibility.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**DIS458: AUTHORISING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION  
VOTING REQUIREMENT: SIMPLE MAJORITY**

**THAT the Waterwise Albany Strategy 2026 be ADOPTED.**

**BACKGROUND**

2. Adoption of the Waterwise Albany Strategy fulfils action 2.2.1.1 of the City of Albany Corporate Business Plan to adopt and implement a Waterwise Strategy. This report was previously considered at the Ordinary Council Meeting held 16 December 2025 and deferred for consideration until 2026.
3. Staff have reviewed the Strategy and key changes include a clearer explanation of roles and responsibilities, updated data and references and inclusion of stakeholder feedback.
4. The Strategy sets out how the City will:
  - Manage water use, infrastructure and assets it controls; and
  - Influence broader water outcomes through partnerships, planning and advocacy.
5. The Strategy supports the City's commitment to sustainability and reduced water use.
6. The City has been part of the Waterwise Program since 2014 and maintains Gold Waterwise Status.

**DISCUSSION**

7. The City is directly responsible for:
  - Water use in City owned facilities, parks, reserves and operations;
  - Stormwater and drainage infrastructure;
  - Integrating water management into local planning and asset management; and
  - Delivering actions under the Waterwise Council Program.
8. The City does not control, but may advocate for positive outcomes in relation to:
  - Drinking water supply and groundwater management (State Government/Water Corporation);
  - Regional water planning and allocation; and
  - Broader catchment and environmental water systems.
9. The Strategy recognises that many issues related to water require shared responsibility and collaboration, and provides a clear direction for water management over the next ten years.
10. The Strategy will be reviewed every five years, and the associated Implementation Plan will be reviewed every two years, with progress reports to Council.
11. In December 2025 WALGA released the Water Management in Western Australia Discussion Paper.
12. The discussion paper outlines key water challenges for Local Government, the legislative and policy settings governing water and included options to provide solutions in an increasingly water constrained environment.
13. There was a strong community desire to ensure the City of Albany prepared a submission to the WALGA Water Management Discussion Paper and this was prepared and submitted to WALGA in March 2026.
14. WALGA has recently released the [Consultation Report: Water Management Discussion Paper](#) in response to feedback received.
15. The Strategy directly relates to the Waterwise Council Action Plan, which is a requirement for continued participation in the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and Water Corporation Waterwise Council Program.
16. Recommendations for funding and timing of actions outlined in the Action Plan are provided in the Implementation Plan.
17. The actions in the Implementation Plan will be incorporated into the City's business planning framework and progress will be monitored by the Water Management Team.
18. Progress will be reported via the City's Annual Report and Gold Waterwise Council Annual Report. A detailed progress report will be released following each major review.

Summary of Changes in Revised Version

19. The following table provides a summary of the main amendments. A detailed document outlining stakeholder feedback and how they have been addressed may be provided upon request.

FEEDBACK	HOW THE FEEDBACK HAS BEEN ADDRESSED
Clarify purpose and scope of document	Document renamed <i>Waterwise Albany Strategy</i> to better reflect the scope of the City's work. Addition of a clear overview of responsibilities - Roles in Water Resource Management - Introduction (p1).
Refine Section 2 - Context	Dual naming applied throughout document for approved Landgate sites. Some maps updated to improve clarity and/or links to external agency datasets provided where possible. Section 2.1 – content reviewed and made more succinct.
Reference Public Drinking Water Source Areas	Links provided to the DWER website and online mapping tool (p9). DWER Operational Policy 13 and DWER WQIS 34 included in Appendix 2: Guiding policy, strategy and guidelines, under 'Other relevant guidance' (p45-46).
Waterwise Council Action Plan. Relocate the Water Use Inventory tables to Appendix 1 and seek updated value to ensure accuracy. Ensure references are updated to the most recent version where changes have occurred since the September 2025 version of the Strategy.	The Corporate and Community Water Consumption data (required for the Waterwise Council Action Plan moved to Appendix 1 (p34-42). Corrected data received from Water Corporation - updated in Table 10. State Planning Policy 2.9: Water (WAPC, 2025) SPP 2.9: Planning for Water Guidelines (WAPC, 2025)

**GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

20. In developing this Strategy, internal consultation was undertaken between January 2025 and March 2025, including:
- Visioning workshop and aligning community priorities from the Community Survey
  - Enabling strategies workshop
  - Strategies and actions workshop
21. Community Engagement activities that have informed this Strategy include:

Type of Engagement	Method of Engagement	Engagement Dates	Participation (Number)	Statutory Consultation
Consult	Strategic Workshop – Elected Members	17 February 2026	12	NA
Consult	Meeting with Department of Water and Environmental Regulation	10 February 2026	6	NA
Consult	Stakeholder Survey seeking Feedback on the Draft Albany Water Management Strategy 2025 – 2035 (Agency and Community Group specific)	23 January to 6 February 2026	Sent to 39 representatives, with 6 responses received.	NA
Consult	Community Survey	13 Nov 2024 to 19 Dec 2024	74 responses from 29 suburbs	NA
Consult	Workshop	2 Feb 2022	25	NA

22. Staff sought external agency feedback via a stakeholder survey sent to 39 representatives. Six responses were received, from:
- Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER)
  - Water Corporation
  - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
  - Wagyl Kaip Southern Noongar Aboriginal Corporation (WKSAN AC)
  - South Coast Natural Resource Management
  - Lake Seppings Bushcare
23. Results from the Community Survey are outlined in Appendix 3 (Attachment 1).

**STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

24. Nil

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

25. The policies related to the Strategy include:
- Developed Managed Space: Parks & Gardens Policy
  - City of Albany Local Planning Scheme
  - City of Albany Local Planning Strategy
  - Stormwater Management Strategy
  - Strategic Asset Management Plan
  - Draft Local Biodiversity and Urban Forest Strategy
  - Environmental Weed Management Plan
  - Verge Development Guidelines
26. Other relevant Strategies include:
- State Planning Policy 2.9: Planning for Water
  - Great Southern Regional Water Supply Strategy (2014)

**RISK IDENTIFICATION & MITIGATION**

27. The risk identification and categorisation rely on the City’s Enterprise Risk and Opportunity Management Framework.

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Analysis	Mitigation
<b>Governance/Financial/Reputation</b> <i>Lack of clear direction for water management with a reduced ability to plan and prioritise projects. Potential loss of Waterwise accreditation. Missed funding opportunities.</i>	Likely	Moderate	High	<i>Adopt and implement the Strategy, integrate actions into Corporate Business Plan and Long Term Financial Plan, maintain compliance with Waterwise requirements.</i>
<b>Environmental:</b> <i>If the Strategy is not endorsed, the City may be unable to appropriately manage water resources in a changing climate and growing population.</i>	Likely	Moderate	High	<i>Engage further with stakeholders and Council to address any concerns prior to Council adopting the Strategy. Ensure strong partnership with external stakeholders on issues that extend beyond City’s scope of responsibility.</i>
<b>Financial</b> <i>If the Strategy is not endorsed, priority actions may be excluded from the Long Term Financial Plan which will lead to uncertainty around achieving deliverables in the Implementation Plan.</i>	Almost Certain	Moderate	High	<i>Ensure that deliverables are clearly articulated as part of the Budget process to ensure appropriate resourcing.</i>
<b>Opportunity 1:</b> <i>Continued leadership and a collaborative approach to managing water resources in an open and transparent document.</i>				
<b>Opportunity 2:</b> <i>Enable leverage funding for projects to achieve mutually beneficial environmental, financial and community outcomes.</i>				
<b>Opportunity 3:</b> <i>Identify actions that can be delivered through current budget and those that can be incorporated into long term financial planning and business plan.</i>				

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 28. Adoption of the Strategy does not commit Council to full funding of all actions.
- 29. Projects will be considered through normal budgeting processes and external funding will be pursued where possible.
- 30. Possible sources of funding include:
  - Water Corporation Greening Scheme (50% co-funded annually for waterwise community projects e.g. Waterwise Verge Rebate).
  - Department of Water and Environmental Regulation Community Water Supplies Partnership (CWSP) Program, jointly funded by the Australian and WA Governments and delivered by DWER's Rural Water Planning Team.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 31. Nil.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 32. As the City is also in the process of preparing a Local Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy, many actions are complementary across all three strategies. They will work together to protect water resources, landscapes, and improve community liveability.
- 33. Waterwise actions that are more closely linked to the achievement of biodiversity and urban forest outcomes will be incorporated into these strategies.

**ALTERNATE OPTIONS**

- 34. Council may choose not to support the Strategy and associated actions listed within the Implementation Plan.
- 35. Council may choose to change the priority strategies and actions.

**CONCLUSION**

- 36. The Waterwise Albany Strategy 2026 provides a practical and flexible framework for managing water in a changing climate.
- 37. The Strategy clearly defines what the City can control and recognises where outcomes depend on partnerships with State agencies, industry and the community.
- 38. Adopting the Strategy ensures that the City can continue to improve water use efficiency, plan for future challenges and support sustainable outcomes for the wider community.

<b>Consulted References</b>	:	<i>City of Albany Corporate Business Plan</i>
<b>File Number</b>	:	N/A
<b>Previous Reference</b>	:	DIS458 - December 2025 OCM