



City of Albany

Local Biodiversity Strategy – The Strategy

2026–2036

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Albany Local Biodiversity Strategy

The City of Albany is committed to continuously enhancing the conservation of our local biodiversity through proactive and innovative approaches to environmental planning and sustainable land management. The creation of the Albany Local Biodiversity Strategy (ALBS) provides a pathway for the Albany Council and its stakeholder partners to address environmental threats, provide planning input for local biodiversity areas, enhance areas managed by the City, and celebrate our natural and cultural heritage.

The City has taken a significant step towards the protection of biodiversity in its Local Planning Strategy (2019), which states:

Development will generally only be supported in cleared areas. Clearing of vegetation may be supported in liaison with relevant State Government Agencies only where its conservation value has been assessed as low.

This Local Biodiversity Strategy has been developed through stakeholder collaboration and will thrive only with internal funding, grants, the support of local organisations and the community. The Strategy outlines the necessary steps to conserve our natural areas for future generations, ensuring the sustainability and liveability of our community.

The Strategy is supported by an Action Plan and a Technical Report, both available on the City of Albany website: [Insert link here].

Purpose and Vision

The Albany community has told Council that it values biodiversity and the richness it provides to our lives, culture, mental wellbeing and economy.

Biodiversity stakeholders have told the Council that they have the following vision:

*“Kinjarling – Albany, Caring for Country –
Where nature and the community can thrive and adapt”*

During the stakeholder engagement process, the community defined ‘Local Natural Areas’ (LNA) in the City of Albany as “areas with value to natural systems across all land tenures, including non-vegetated areas with value for ecosystem processes”.

The City of Albany has committed to proactively protecting and managing biodiversity under its direct control, and advocate for biodiversity protection more broadly.

Our Local Biodiversity

Biodiversity encompasses all forms of life on Earth, including plants, animals, microorganisms, the genes they carry, and the ecosystems and natural processes in which they are part. It is one of our most valuable natural assets, as the Earth's biodiversity supports every aspect of human life. Therefore, we must conserve our natural resources to remain resilient in the face of future challenges. Biodiversity is defined as:

The variety of life forms, including plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms, as well as the genes they contain and the ecosystems they form (Commonwealth of Australia, 1996).

In the South West Australian Ecoregion, Albany is part of one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots, underscoring the richness of our natural environment and community.

The City of Albany boasts a rich blend of natural assets, comprising diverse ecosystems such as granite outcrops, bushland, wetlands, waterways and coastal areas. These landscapes make Albany a unique and beautiful place to live and attract many visitors due to their scenic value and variety. The municipality features Threatened and Priority flora and fauna, ecological communities, and an array of plants, animals, and habitat types endemic to the region.

Development for agriculture and settlement growth has significantly impacted biodiversity, already clearing nearly 65% of the native vegetation in the Albany municipality. Phytophthora dieback, weeds, pests and climate change also threaten biodiversity.

The continued reduction in the size, number, and functionality of vegetation remnants, waterways, and wetlands will increase pressure on ecosystems and species of flora and fauna. Albany has significant areas of vegetation in small, scattered patches inland, and considerable native vegetation remains on private property. As conservation reserves are less able to retain their values as isolated 'islands' in a cleared or urbanised landscape, a vegetation linkage or macrocorridor approach that links conservation reserves to other remnant native vegetation on private land is an important initiative for reducing biodiversity loss.

City of Albany Snapshot

The Snapshot below provides an overview for the whole City of Albany local government area (LGA). See the Technical Report for more details.



Land & Water

430,807

total hectares of LGA

5

major drainage lines

180

kilometres of coastline

35

conservation significant wetlands



Flora & Fauna

3104

plant species

30

threatened flora species (WA)

1464

fauna species

56

threatened fauna species (WA)

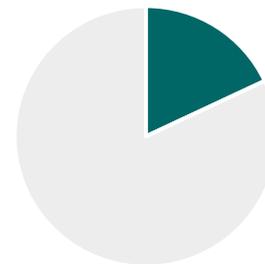


Vegetation



37%

of original extent remaining



18%

of original extent protected in Crown reserves

83,800

hectares of vegetation on freehold land

340

hectares of vegetation owned by the City on freehold land

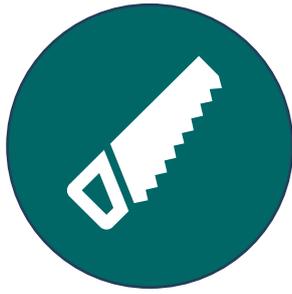
443

crown reserves managed by the City

12,200

hectares of vegetation on Crown land managed by the City

Threats to Biodiversity



**Clearing and Fragmentation of
Habitat**



Knowledge Gaps



Climate Change and Variability



Altered Hydrology



**Inappropriate Fire Frequency and
Intensity**



Inappropriate Access



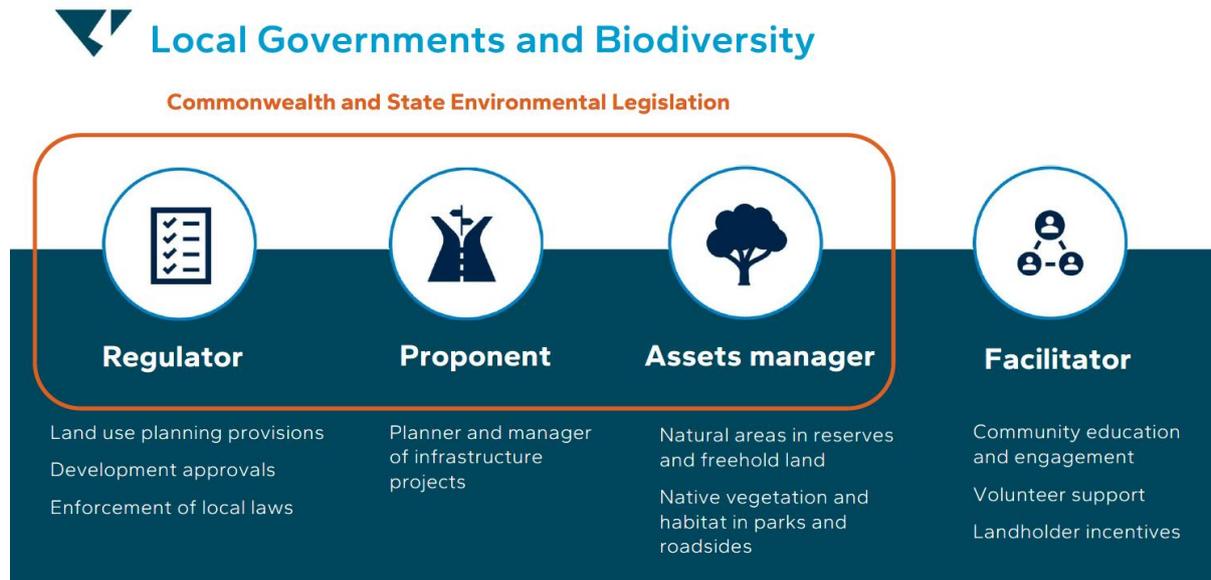
Weeds



Pests and Diseases

The City's Role in Biodiversity Management

The City must work within the Commonwealth and State framework of legislation and policies and has the following roles.

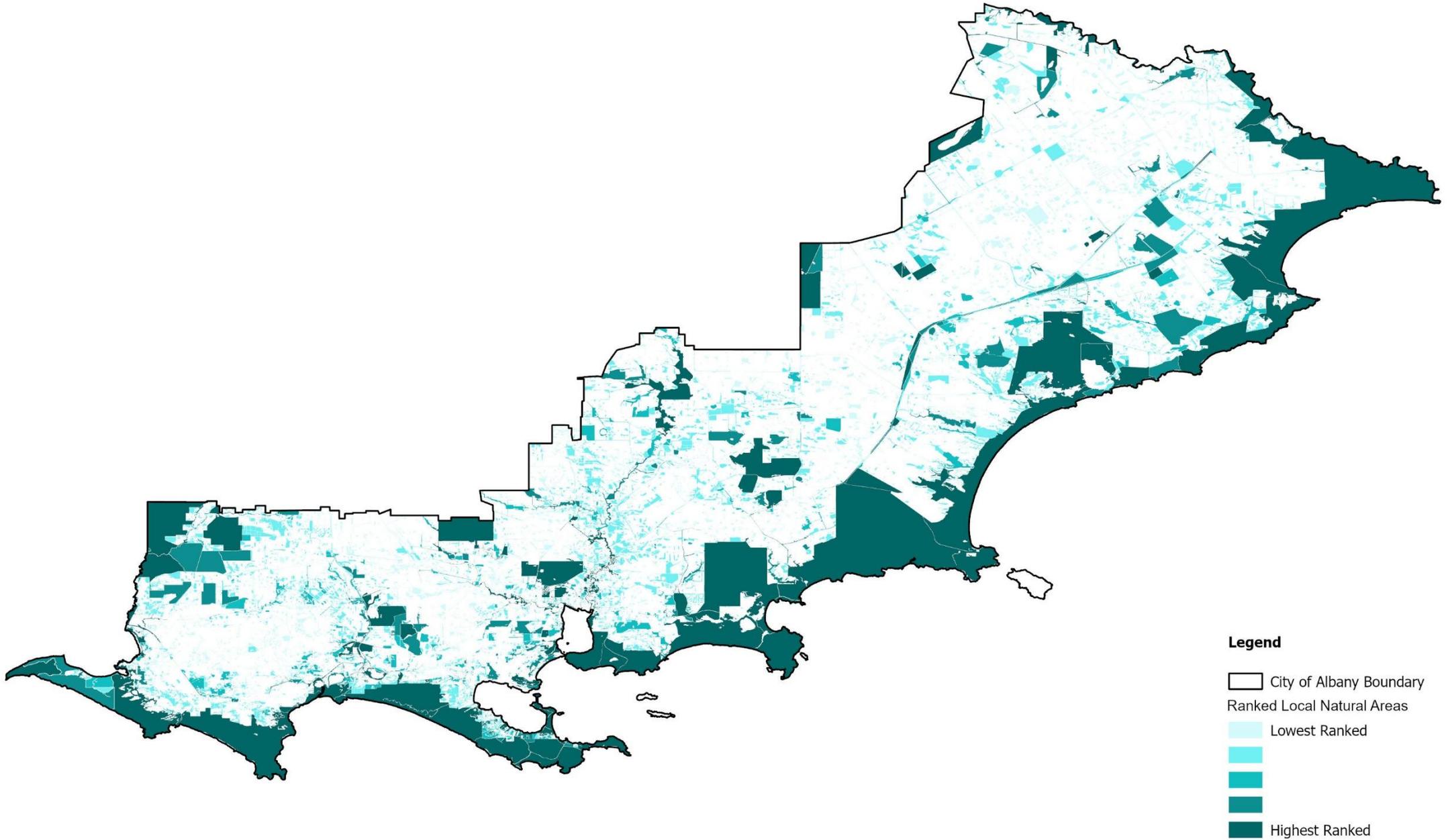


Mechanisms within the City's control that guide how and where they can manage biodiversity, include the following:

- Council Plan
- Local Planning Strategy
- Local Planning Scheme
- Local Laws
- Reserve Management
- Leasing Agreements

Ranking Areas of Biodiversity

Local Natural Areas (LNA) were ranked based on values such as connectivity, representation, presence of wetlands and water courses, rarity, threats, size of patches and other significance factors.



Goals

To maintain our biodiversity values and manage the threats, the City's goals are as follows:



Retain & Protect

Retain and protect natural areas, with consideration of biodiversity criteria and ecological representation, on City-managed land and through planning and development processes on private land.



Learn

Improve understanding of biodiversity values, threats and opportunities by building knowledge, research and partnerships.



Manage & Enhance

Improve ecological condition, increase connectivity and reduce threats across natural areas through coordinated management and restoration.



Engage

Increase community involvement, partnerships and stewardship in biodiversity protection and management.

Turning Plans into Action

Protecting and enhancing the City's local biodiversity is a shared responsibility between government agencies, the City, and the community. It's vital that all stakeholders work together to achieve our shared vision of improving the conservation status of LNAs and realising the benefits this creates.

As part of this Strategy, an Action Plan has been developed to articulate the goals, actions, and key pathways for implementation. The Action Plan has been shaped through targeted engagement with the teams responsible for delivery, ensuring each action is achievable, well-informed, and grounded in operational capability.

The Strategy and accompanying Action Plan will annually guide the City in planning and prioritising projects for implementation. An internal cross-departmental working group will coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan, measure its success and recommend changes as implementation of the Plan progresses.

The actions that help to achieve each goal are listed in the following section. These form the basis of the Action Plan.

Goal: Retain and Protect

Retain and protect natural areas, with consideration of biodiversity criteria and ecological representation, on City-owned and managed land and through planning and development processes on private land.

- 1.1 Continue to implement and improve an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.
 - 1.2 Embed biodiversity considerations into the planning assessment process and when making recommendations on rezoning and subdivision proposals.
 - 1.3 Integrate Albany Local Biodiversity Strategy (ALBS) objectives, where relevant, into the Local Planning Strategy and Scheme.
 - 1.4 Enforce Local Planning Framework provisions requiring revegetation/rehabilitation where clearing or degradation has occurred without approval.
 - 1.5 Strengthen compliance and environmental outcomes associated with permits and approvals that affect vegetation and natural areas on City-managed land.
 - 1.6 Ensure coastal risk management and adaptation planning maintains ecological processes.
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Goal: Learn

Improve understanding of biodiversity values, threats and opportunities by building knowledge, research and partnerships.

2.1 Maintain and enhance biodiversity related data and information sharing across the organisation.

2.2 Capture existing knowledge and investigate ways to build knowledge of ecological values within Local Natural Areas (LNA).

2.3 Support agencies, research institutions, citizen scientists and community groups to enhance knowledge of biodiversity values and threats.

2.4 Raise awareness and educate about biodiversity values across the organisation.

Goal: Manage and Enhance

Improve ecological condition, increase connectivity and reduce threats across natural areas through coordinated management and restoration.

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- 3.1 Continue to implement the City's environmental code of conduct for any works on City land, including biodiversity clauses in tenders and maintenance contracts.

 - 3.2 Consider the designs of proposed and current public open spaces and where feasible, take steps to increase biodiversity.

 - 3.3 Adequately maintain new Public Open Space (POS) and offset areas surrendered to the City as part of developments/subdivisions and adjust resourcing to reflect additional management responsibilities.

 - 3.4 Advocate for and embed consideration of connectivity and eco-corridors into all planning, rezoning and subdivision proposal, as well as any strategies.

 - 3.5 Provide funding opportunities to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide education and on-ground actions that support best practice natural area management.

 - 3.6 Investigate ways to increase urban greening and ecological connectivity to improve biodiversity outcomes.

 - 3.7 Continue to enforce and monitor environmental lease conditions to ensure biodiversity is managed and retained on leased City land.

 - 3.8 Encourage cooperative management programs to manage risks to biodiversity.

 - 3.9 Review the priorities of reserve management to target management and restoration where biodiversity benefit and community benefit are greatest.

 - 3.10 Continue to collaborate with Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and external agencies to undertake innovative and ecological burning trials and continue to map fire history.

 - 3.11 Continue to maintain and implement environmental weed management plans and strengthen education and volunteer support.

 - 3.12 Consider ways in which to strategically facilitate offsets, including revegetation.

Goal: Engage

Increase community involvement, partnerships and stewardship in biodiversity protection and management.

- 4.1 Implement a coordinated advocacy and awareness program promoting biodiversity values and ALBS objectives.
 - 4.2 Advocate for a funding program to help support landowners of high biodiversity freehold land to protect and enhance biodiversity.
 - 4.3 Connect education facilities and community groups with opportunities for biodiversity education and on ground projects.
 - 4.4 Act on any recommendations or requirements from State agencies to manage biosecurity risks.
 - 4.5 Strengthen relationships with Traditional Custodians.
 - 4.6 Continue to support volunteer programs that support the management of biodiversity.
 - 4.7 Explore and promote community biodiversity grant opportunities to support on-ground works, research and stewardship initiatives.
 - 4.8 Investigate potential incentive mechanisms for biodiversity protection on private land, such as rate relief or covenant support.
 - 4.9 Celebrate biodiversity achievements.
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Governance, Monitoring and Reporting

The City will maintain strong governance and transparent oversight of the Local Biodiversity Strategy by embedding monitoring, reporting, and continuous improvement into its core planning and budget processes. Implementation of the strategy will be guided by alignment with existing City strategies, policies and guidelines to ensure consistency and integration across all areas of work. Progress will be tracked through the monitoring and evaluation framework, with an annual public update provided to demonstrate achievements, identify emerging challenges, and inform future refinements. This approach ensures accountability, supports evidence-based decision-making, and keeps biodiversity outcomes central to the City's long-term planning.

Review of the Strategy

The Strategy will serve as a guiding document and will be reviewed ten years after adoption by Council, or earlier if required due to significant legislative or policy changes. The Action Plan, as a more adaptive operational tool, will undergo its first review 18–24 months after adoption to allow sufficient time for the implementation and evaluation of initial actions before updates are undertaken.

For Further Reading

This Strategy document is designed to be read in conjunction with the Action Plan and Technical Report. Visit the City's website at the links below, to view these documents and find out more about the implementation of the Albany Local Biodiversity Strategy.

[Insert links here]