

Local Biodiversity Strategy

The Strategy 2026–2036



THE CITY OF ALBANY
RESPECTFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE MENANG NOONGAR
PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL
CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON
WHICH THE CITY CONDUCTS
ITS BUSINESS, AND PAYS
RESPECT TO ELDERS
PAST AND PRESENT.

Australian Pelican
(*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)
Sensr Solutions



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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.



As one of Western Australia's fast-growing regional cities, Albany continues to experience increasing demand for housing, infrastructure and services to support a growing and diverse community. This growth presents both opportunities and challenges for the City's natural environment. The Albany Local Biodiversity Strategy recognises the intrinsic, social and economic value of biodiversity to the City's identity and liveability, while also acknowledging the need to balance biodiversity protection with responsible growth and development.

Through integrated planning and informed decision-making, the Strategy seeks to support sustainable development outcomes that respect ecological values while enabling the City to meet community housing and development needs.

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
albany.wa.gov.au

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.

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.

It is noted that the City has recently adopted a Waterwise Strategy and is progressing a range of urban forest initiatives. Accordingly, actions relevant to biodiversity that are more closely linked to the achievement of water management and urban forest outcomes are incorporated into these initiatives.

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”

Sharp Point, Albany

Frances Andrijich



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 two-thirds 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.

Black Swan
(*Cygnus atratus*)

Krysta Guille

City of Albany Snapshot

The Snapshot 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

3,104

plant
species

1,464

fauna
species

30

threatened flora
species (WA)*

56

threatened fauna
species (WA)*



Vegetation

36%



of original extent remaining

~52%



of remaining vegetation has some level of protection

83,800

hectares of
vegetation on
freehold land

443

crown reserves
managed by
the City

340

hectares of vegetation
owned by the City on
freehold land

12,202

hectares of vegetation
on Crown land
managed by the City

**For a comprehensive list of conservation-significant flora and fauna species recorded in the City, refer to Appendix C & G of the Technical Report*

Biodiversity in Focus

Albany is recognised as part of one of the world's biodiversity hotspots and supports a remarkable diversity of plants and animals, including species found nowhere else on Earth.



Albany Pitcher Plant

*Cephalotus
follicularis*

A unique
carnivorous plant
found only in the
south-west of
Western Australia.



Albany Woollybush

*Adenanthos
sericeus*

An iconic Albany
species recognised
for its soft silver
foliage and striking
red flowers.



Granite Banksia

*Banksia
verticillata*

A distinctive
banksia of Albany's
granite outcrops
and coastal
heathlands.



Western Ground Parrot

*Pezoporus
flaviventris*

One of Australia's
rarest birds,
found in coastal
heathlands of the
Great Southern.



Noisy Scrub-bird

*Atrichornis
clamosus*

One of Australia's
rarest birds and
a conservation
success story of
international
significance.



Western Ringtail Possum

*Pseudocheirus
occidentalis*

A threatened
marsupial found
in Albany's forests
and woodlands.

The species shown above are examples of the unique biodiversity found within the City of Albany and are not intended to represent a complete or prioritised list. For a comprehensive list of conservation-significant flora and fauna species recorded within the City, refer to Appendices C and G of the Technical Report.

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Threats to Biodiversity

	Land clearing and fragmentation
	Knowledge gaps
	Climate change and variability
	Altered Hydrology
	Inappropriate Fire Frequency and Intensity
	Inappropriate Access
	Weeds
	Pests and Diseases



Little Penguin
(*Eudyptula minor*)
Egroy



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.

Regulator	Proponent	Assets Manager	Facilitator
Land use planning provisions Development approvals Enforcement of local laws	Planner and manager of infrastructure projects	Natural areas in reserves and freehold land Native vegetation and habitat in parks and roadsides	Community education and engagement Volunteer support Landholder incentives

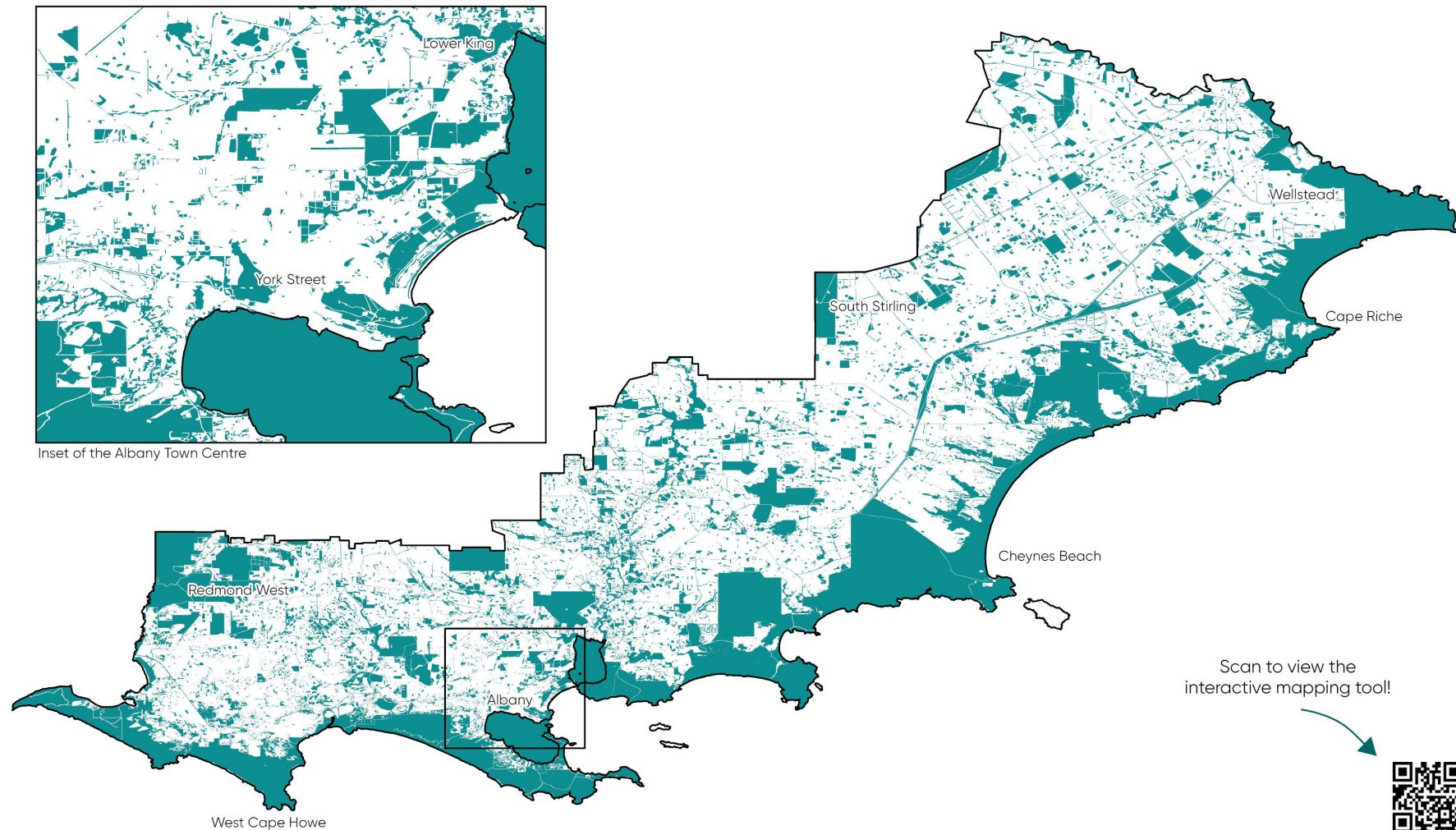
Mechanisms within the City's control that guide how and where they can manage biodiversity, include the following:

	Council Plan
	Local Planning Strategy
	Local Planning Scheme

	Local Laws
	Reserve Management
	Leasing Agreements

Local Natural Areas

Local Natural Areas (LNA) are defined as “areas with value to natural systems across all land tenures, including non-vegetated areas with value for ecosystem processes”.



Scale
(Bar)





Granite Spider Orchid
(*Caladenia granitora*)

Kym Nicolson

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.

Actions are proposed to guide the City's implementation of this Strategy and to support achievement of the Vision of caring for Country so that nature and community can thrive and adapt together.

Each action within the Action Plan is assigned a proposed timeframe, priority level and delivery responsibility. The timeframe indicates the suggested period for implementation, while the priority reflects the relative importance of the action in contributing to the overall objectives of the Strategy.

Priority and timeframe should be considered together; actions with a lower priority but a shorter timeframe may represent opportunities for early achievement, while higher-priority actions may require longer timeframes due to complexity or resourcing requirements. The nominated priorities and timeframes are indicative only.

Implementation of the Strategy will be influenced by factors such as funding and budget availability, Council priorities and capacity, legislative requirements, and levels of stakeholder and community support. As such, the Action Plan is intended to remain flexible and responsive, allowing the City to adapt its approach as circumstances, opportunities and challenges evolve.

The Action Plan is structured around four goals that support achievement of the Strategy's vision: Retain and Protect, Learn, Manage and Enhance, and Engage. Each goal is supported by a suite of actions that provide a practical pathway for implementation and ongoing improvement of biodiversity outcomes across the City.

Before progressing these goal-based actions, the City will first establish an appropriate governance model to oversee implementation of the Strategy. This foundational action underpins all other actions in the Action Plan by providing leadership, coordination, accountability, monitoring and reporting arrangements to support effective delivery over time.



Blue-breasted Fairywren
(*Malurus pulcherrimus*)



Implementation Governance

Purpose: The successful delivery of the Albany Local Biodiversity Strategy relies on clear governance and organisational oversight.

This action establishes the governance arrangements required to coordinate implementation, monitor progress, support reporting and drive continual improvement across all goals and actions.



G1

Establish an appropriate governance model to oversee implementation of the Local Biodiversity Strategy



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 biodiversity values on City-managed land.
- 1.6

Ensure coastal risk management and adaptation planning maintains ecological processes.



Honey Possum
(*Tarsipes rostratus*)



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. |
| 2.5 | Establish a technical advisory framework to inform the development and continual improvement of biodiversity decision-support tools. |



Goal:

Manage and Enhance



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

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.	3.7	Continue to enforce and monitor environmental lease conditions to ensure biodiversity is managed and retained on leased City land.
3.2	Consider the designs of proposed and current public open spaces and where feasible, take steps to increase biodiversity.	3.8	Encourage cooperative management programs to manage risks to 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.	3.9	Review the priorities of reserve management to target management and restoration where biodiversity benefit and community benefit are greatest.
3.4	Advocate for and embed consideration of connectivity and eco-corridors into all planning, rezoning and subdivision proposals, as well as any strategies.	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.
3.5	Provide funding opportunities to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide education and on-ground actions that support best practice natural area management.	3.11	Continue to maintain and implement environmental weed management plans and strengthen education and volunteer support.
3.6	Investigate ways to increase urban greening and ecological connectivity to improve biodiversity outcomes.	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. |

Carnaby's Black-Cockatoo
(*Zanda latirostris*)





Governance, Monitoring and Reporting

The City will maintain governance and transparent oversight of the Local Biodiversity Strategy by embedding monitoring, reporting, and continuous improvement into its activities. 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.

An early action of the Strategy will be to investigate and establish an appropriate governance model, including the identification of a responsible team and/or the formation of a cross-functional working group to oversee implementation.

This working group will support coordination across the organisation, help inform action priorities, and provide a mechanism for accountability to the City.

In particular, a dedicated working group established under the Learn goal will inform the development and continual improvement of biodiversity decision-support tools, drawing on internal expertise and, where appropriate, external input to guide evidence-based enhancements.

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

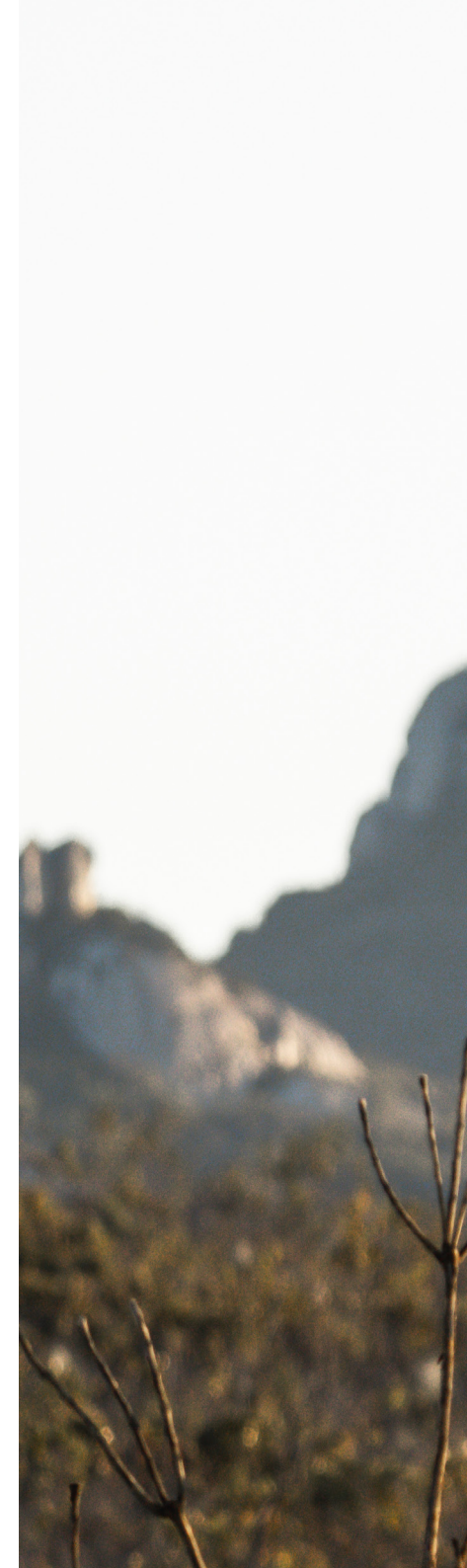
The Albany Local Biodiversity Strategy is part of an integrated suite of City of Albany strategies, plans and policies that collectively guide decision-making and investment across the organisation.

The Strategy aligns with, and should be considered alongside, the Council Plan, Local Planning Strategy, planning framework documents, asset management plans and other environmental and infrastructure strategies.

Its successful implementation relies on coordinated consideration across these documents to ensure biodiversity outcomes are balanced with the City's broader priorities, including housing, growth, community wellbeing and economic development.

This Strategy document is designed to be read in conjunction with the Action Plan and Technical Report.

Visit the City's website to view these documents and find out more about the implementation of the Albany Local Biodiversity Strategy.





Scarlet Banksia
(*Banksia coccinea*)

Sensr Solutions

