

Local Biodiversity Actions

The strategy discusses a number of proposed actions to help achieve the targets over the next 2 to 3 years, including:

Biodiversity targets to be supported by the Council, the community and State Government.

Local natural areas identified by desk top studies to be assessed, identified and verified.

Special Control Areas to be investigated as a protection mechanism through the Town Planning Scheme.

Review of the existing Conservation Zone initiative and expand the zone.

Investigate a stewardship program linked to grants.

Develop partnerships to deliver further stewardship programs.

Trial strata cluster and other rural subdivisions with conservation as a focus.

Develop criteria for subdivision for conservation.

Assess all reserves with natural areas and determine priorities based on assessments while continuing to carry out priority management.

Develop a Local Planning Policy (LPP) for Biodiversity Conservation, trial the policy in a number of development settings.

Allocate resources for the LPP implementation and ensure developers and stakeholders are aware of LPP requirements.

Utilize the Mundijong Whitby Structure Plan process as a test case for the new initiatives.

Establish GIS/Biodiversity data base information and its ongoing management.

Integrating with Development

The strategy proposes to investigate a number of initiatives which would require implementation through the Shire's planning scheme and strategy. These include a Special Control Area, and an expanded Conservation Zone System. The Shire is reviewing its local planning strategy over the next 2 to 3 years and this will also provide a number of opportunities to achieve the targets proposed in the Discussion Paper. In particular, the Shire will need to identify where opportunities for subdivision could help protect significant natural areas.

Submissions on the Biodiversity Strategy Discussion Paper

Submissions received on this Draft Stage 1 Biodiversity Strategy Discussion Paper were used by Council to finalize the document as the Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy. Following on from this (2008/2009) will be the preparation of a Draft Biodiversity Local Planning Policy and a Draft Incentives Strategy for Conservation on Private Property.

Partners in this project include the South West Biodiversity Project, SJ Landcare, Peel-Harvey Catchment and the South West Catchment Council.



Local Biodiversity Strategy



Agency Brochure



Red-tailed Black Cockatoo



Local Biodiversity Strategy

Introduction

The Shire has finalized a Local Biodiversity Strategy to provide mechanisms for greater local protection of natural areas and a higher standard of local management of plants and animals (biodiversity). The paper focuses on natural areas outside those areas already protected by the State and Commonwealth Governments. These are generally areas on private lands and local reserves. Draft targets for the protection of specific types of natural areas have been proposed to provide the greatest chance of conserving biodiversity. Much of the paper relates to how the Shire will develop in the future and efforts to protect natural areas as part of development planning.

Vision for the Shire

To Protect and Manage a connected network of over 4,000 hectares of local natural areas throughout the Shire so that they are found to be healthy and resilient in 2050. This vision is supported by the Shire's strategic objectives to protect and repair natural resources and sustainably manage and use natural resources.

The Shire's Goals

- Prevent the further loss of all natural areas in the Shire.
- Protect a portion of each basic type of vegetation and ecosystem typical to the Shire.

- Protect specific biodiversity features such as rare species, wetland vegetation and ecological linkages.
- Support rehabilitation of natural areas and revegetation of new areas to increase native fauna habitat.
- Much of the focus of the proposed strategy is the protection of portion of the 4503 ha, or 11% of original vegetation remaining west of South West Highway.

Draft Local Biodiversity Targets

Targets are proposed to protect both the variety of basic vegetation types as well as natural areas with specific biodiversity features. Together these targets will be used to prioritise the areas that should be protected. The targets have been developed by assessing the constraints of land zonings and planned developments and the general amount of native vegetation remaining in the Shire

Vegetation Complex

- Bassendean Central and South Complex – 266 ha of the remaining 1,041 ha of local natural area
- Dardanup Complex – 12 ha of the remaining 13 ha of local natural area
- Serpentine River Complex – 8 ha of the remaining 34 ha of local natural area
- Southern River Complex – 172 ha of the remaining 573 ha of local natural area.
- Guildford Complex – 96 ha of the remaining 264 ha of local natural area.

- Beermullah Complex – 20 ha of the remaining 26 ha of local natural area.
- Forrestfield Complex – 101 ha of the remaining 122 ha of local natural area.
- Darling Scarp Complex – 583 ha of the remaining 1015ha of local natural area.

Specific Feature Targets

Biodiversity Feature Protection: All Declared Rare Flora, Specially Protected Fauna, Priority Species and Threatened Ecological Communities are to be protected. All wetlands, wetland vegetation in good condition are to be protected along with adequate buffers.

Biodiversity Feature Retention: All riparian vegetation retained as first preference and protection of 10% of verified natural areas within 5 years and 20% within 10 years.

Regional Ecological Linkages: Protect and increase viability and resilience of areas within regional ecological linkage areas within 5 years. As a lower priority where more than 500 meters exist between resilient natural areas support ecological revegetation projects to create habitat stepping stones.

Locally characteristic flora and fauna. Retain all verified local natural areas and park and treed areas which support locally characteristic flora and fauna such as the Black Cockatoo, Eucalyptus lane poolei and Eucalyptus laeii. Protect all habitats of locally characteristic flora and fauna, where such habitat occurs on properties proposed for development.