

The background of the cover is a collage of two photographs. The top half shows a coastal landscape with tall, thin, leafless trees and green foliage under a clear blue sky. The bottom half shows a group of people, including a man in a light blue shirt and khaki pants holding a clipboard, and a group of children and adults on a paved path in a natural setting.

Environment and Sustainability Education 2025-2030 *Plan*



This document is available in alternative formats upon request.



City of Kwinana kaditj kalyakool moondang-ak kaaradj midi boodjar-ak ngala nyininy, yakka wer waabiny, Noongar moort. Ngala kaditj baalap kalyakoorl nidja boodjar wer kep kaaradjiny, baalap moorditj nidja yaakiny-ak wer moorditj moort wer kaditj Birdiya wer yeyi.

City of Kwinana acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play, the Nyoongar people. We recognise their connection to the land and local waterways, their resilience and commitment to community and pay our respect to Elders past and present.

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1. Background

The City of Kwinana (the City) is located on the coastline south of Perth, Western Australia. The City's location and its environmentally sensitive, biodiverse natural areas draw significance to the importance of the environment to its residents

The population of Kwinana has grown to over 50,000 people (REMPAN, 2022), with many new families in the area. Environmental education has been implemented by the City over many years, with activities held in natural areas and providing practical environmental skills being highly popular within the community.

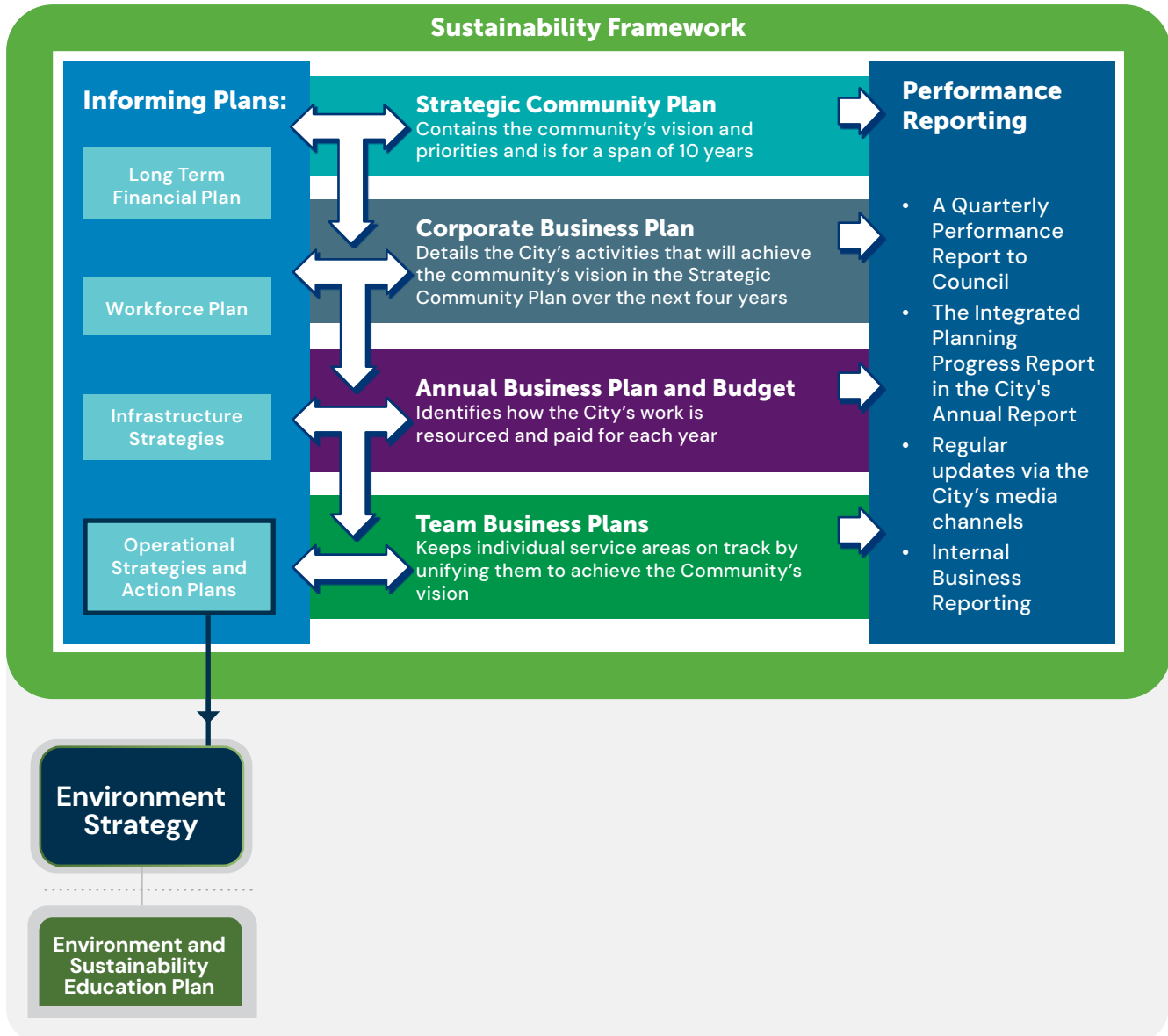
2. Purpose

Kwinana has a rich history of valuing the environment and people's connection with nature. The City contains several biodiverse natural areas and is located in a temperate coastal Mediterranean climate. As these areas are highly affected by climate change and warming, drying and other environmental events, these factors contribute toward the City being perfectly positioned to help educate and engage our community within the local environment. This Environment and Sustainability Education Plan (the Plan) replaces the Environment Education Strategy (2018–2024) with a strong focus on increasing resilience within the community and to improve our community's capacity to adapt to environmental changes and challenges. Resilience is defined as a community's ability to plan for, resist, absorb and recover from disruptive events such as those faced by climate issues and environmental challenges (Koliou, 2018). This Plan aims to provide further direction and outline the importance of resilience building within the community and its benefits at a local level.

3. Strategic Context

The Environment and Sustainability Education Plan will contribute towards the educational aspects of several City of Kwinana strategies and operational plans, while also being a key driver in the strategic and coordinated direction of the City's education and engagement activities.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK



City of Kwinana Sustainability Framework

The City's Sustainability Framework provides guiding principles and priority focus areas to aid the City's realisation of the *United Nations Sustainability Development Goals* outlined in the City's Strategic Community Plan. The Plan is applicable to the following Sustainability Framework principle and priority areas:

Sustainability Guiding Principles



Social Inclusion



Community Wellbeing



Environmental stewardship



Resilient and adaptable communities



Generational value creation

United Nations Sustainability Development Goals



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND

Priority Areas

Priority Area 1:
Climate Action

Climate change is increasingly affecting both our operations and our community. Climate action involves reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing our resilience and capacity to withstand the impacts of climate change.

Priority Area 2:
Environment and biodiversity

Environment is one of the pillars of sustainability: it provides ecosystem services and underpins all life. Biodiversity is a key feature of our local environment: its protection is an essential part of maintaining these ecological services and functions

Priority Area 3:
Liveability

Liveability is a fundamental part of The City’s role as a local government, to create and maintain a safe, connected, comfortable environment so that we have a thriving and happy community.

Priority Area 4:
Engagement and Inclusion

Inclusion and engagement foster a community that feels it belongs and that can trust its decision-makers. Regularly hearing from a diverse range of voices ensures the needs of the community continue to be met.

Priority Area 6:
Responsible Investment and Procurement

Financial sustainability is where the City is accountable and able to achieve better outcomes for our community using ratepayer funds.

Priority Area 7:
Innovation

Innovation is at the heart of employee involvement; it is a way to feel heard and be involved in decision-making processes that can have lasting and significant benefits to our organisation and community. Cultivating an environment of learning, stretching and continuous improvement, built on best practice can provide better outcomes.

City of Kwinana Strategic Community Plan

The City's *Strategic Community Plan 2021–2031* (SCP) prescribes a number of objectives aimed at achieving the City's vision of "A unique and liveable City, celebrated for and connected by its diverse community, natural beauty and economic opportunities". The SCP was developed in consultation with the community and is the overarching document that guides the City of Kwinana's priorities. Below are the SCP outcomes and objectives applicable to the Environment and Sustainability Education Plan:

 Outcome 1 A naturally beautiful environment that is enhanced and protected
1.1 Retain and improve our streetscapes and open spaces, preserving the trees and greenery that makes Kwinana unique
1.2 Maintain and enhance our beautiful, natural environment through sustainable protection and conservation
 Outcome 2 Infrastructure and services that are sustainable and contribute to health and wellbeing
2.2 Maintain infrastructure, playgrounds, parks and reserves to a high standard through sustainable asset maintenance and renewal
 Outcome 4 A unique, vibrant and healthy City that is safe, connected and socially diverse
4.1 Create, activate and manage places and local centres that are inviting, unique and accessible
4.2 Improve Kwinana's perception by leveraging and promoting the unique attributes of the area and supporting feelings of safety and security in community.
4.3 Enhance opportunities for community to meet, socialise, recreate, and build local connections
 Outcome 5 Visionary leadership dedicated to acting for its community
5.2 Develop strong community engagement through strong partnerships with the community
5.3 Provide a high standard of customer service with the community as priority
5.4 Establish a culture of continuous improvement, achieving high levels of business excellence

City of Kwinana Environment Strategy

The City of Kwinana *Environment Strategy 2024–2034* drives the City's environmental management priorities, and ensures that environmental conservation, protection and education are integral to the City's activities.

The Environment Strategy is guided by the City's SCP and Sustainability Framework. The Environment Strategy's directions align with several service areas, and links directly to the Sustainability Framework. These key directions are:

- Liveability
- Decarbonisation
- Biodiversity
- Circularity

The Environment Strategy includes a range of actions derived from environment-related City Plans that will contribute towards the achievement of the goals within each of the strategy's directions. Some are directly related to environmental education and promotion within the community and are included in this Environment and Sustainability Education Plan.

4. Educational Approach

The Australian Association for Environmental Education (AEEE) provides great guidelines for building environmental understanding and resilience within communities (AESA, 2015). The City has developed an educational framework as seen in Figure 1 based on these standards to promote awareness, understanding, and action towards environmental conservation. This framework is also consistent with the 'Theory, Practice, Progress, Promise' approach proposed by Palmer (1998). The WA State Government emphasises the importance of integrating environmental education into various sectors, including schools, in their Sustainability Framework. (Department of Education, 2021). Other areas, such as community organisations, and local governments, can adapt to this framework to help cultivate a culture of sustainability in community engagement. The City recognises the importance of environmental education in nurturing responsibility and empowerment among its residents. This Plan involves all City environmental services to help residents understand the importance of the environment in their local area.

Using this educational framework, the City aims to create a cycle of continuous learning and action, where residents are empowered to become active agents of change in their community. Through collaboration and collective effort, together we will build a more resilient and environmentally conscious community for the benefit of future generations.

Learning

The initial 'Learning' phase lays an initial foundation of environmental and sustainability awareness. This early exposure to environmental concepts and principles promotes curiosity and awareness. Individuals develop a fundamental understanding of the interconnectedness between human actions and the environment, nurturing a sense of responsibility for environmental preservation. The first step of environmental education is pivotal in exploring the base knowledge and skills to build a solid foundation of environmental and sustainability awareness. The City targets this initial phase by messaging through its social media channels, hosting informative workshops and installing interpretive signage in its natural areas.

Developing and Practicing Skills

Developing and practicing environmental skills through community workshops, sessions and courses provides opportunities for hands-on learning and meaningful behaviour change. The best way to establish environmental action is through activities that involve residents physically engaging in actions we want to promote. These serve as hands-on learning opportunities where participants actively engage in activities that actively assist the environment, such as community planting days and skills-based workshops. Through these experiences, residents not only acquire practical skills but also develop a deeper connection to environmental stewardship, being able to tangibly see the impact of their actions. One example of a skill-building program is the City's annual "Living Smart," course, where participants are supported by a facilitator

and each other to set and achieve goals for themselves that will improve both their health and the environment. This interactive process creates a personal connection between the City's community and the natural environment, creating a supportive environment for skill enhancement and behaviour modification (McPhee, 2023). Participants are empowered to take ownership of their environmental impact and work towards positive change within their communities.

Expanding and Building Resilience

As individuals progress along their environmental journey, they transition into leading the development of their own goals and projects. With guidance from educators and facilitators, community members set objectives tailored to their interests and the needs of their surroundings. For example, a 'friends of' group or individual community member may embark on initiatives such as revegetation or household emissions reduction, contributing to the overall sustainability of their neighbourhood. The effectiveness of this stage relies on the ability for a community member to progress through the stages of learning and arrive at a point where they are comfortable to share their learnings with others and practice and develop their skills. By supporting individuals to progress through the learning stages, the City encourages positive behaviour change and facilitates community groups and individuals that help build community resilience.

Using this approach, individuals of all backgrounds and levels of expertise can participate and contribute meaningfully to environmental efforts. The collaborative nature of these programs creates a sense of belonging and collective responsibility, strengthening community bonds and promoting long-term engagement with environment and sustainability initiatives.

Limitations and Opportunities

Each Focus Area within this Plan has its own set of specific limitations and opportunities. Opportunities can arise because of previously run education activities may have links to previously run activities and plans, however all current activities should be consistent with the goals and targets within this Plan. Environmental Education activities are often associated with other activities to provide additional value, increased support and funding. The Plan incorporates a holistic view, involving teams who contribute towards or impact the environment. To be most effective, the Plan will need to be implemented collaboratively across relevant internal departments. This Plan will be reviewed at mid-cycle and end of life and will adapt to meet the evolving needs of our community and environment.



Figure 1. City of Kwinana Environmental Education Approach

5. Goals

The goals of this Plan align with the above educational framework.

Goal 1: Increase community knowledge about environmental and sustainability Focus Areas

This goal is to reach community members across all demographics in Kwinana to ensure they are informed about environmental issues and opportunities within the City. Awareness is the initial stage of learning, ensuring residents of the City receive relevant environmental knowledge as a starting point.

Goal 2: Assist community to develop new skills that contribute to environmental and sustainability outcomes

Community members within the City are provided with workshops and classes designed to develop and build on practical skills.

Goal 3: Collaborate with community to achieve environmental and sustainability outcomes

Collaboration between City staff and our local community adds value to sessions and workshops, providing community members with the opportunity to offer input into activities, creating a stronger sense of ownership and community within Kwinana. Collaboration will involve all focus area teams, working together to achieve common objectives and reach more people within our community.

Goal 4: Build resilience in the community

Education and workshops will be offered that help to build resilience across the community. These will provide valuable and practical skills that community members can then share with others, further building resilience to environmental and other challenges.



6. Focus Areas

The City implements a broad range of environmental and sustainability related activities. These have been categorised into the following key focus areas, each with applicable education objectives and targets, as described further below:

Focus Area	Environment Strategy Direction			
	Liveability	Biodiversity	Decarbonisation	Circularity
Sustainability	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disaster and Bushfire Preparedness	✓	✓		
Environment	✓	✓		
Environmental Planning	✓	✓	✓	
Natural Areas		✓		
Coastal and Marine	✓	✓		
Waste and Circularity			✓	✓

6.1. Sustainability

The City's *Sustainability Framework* is based around the four sustainability pillars of Environment, Social, Economic and Governance. These pillars have been translated into a set of Kwinana-specific guiding principles and priority areas. These are put into practice through programs, workshops, and internal processes. Sustainability education within the community primarily focuses on energy, water, sustainable living and waste reduction actions, helping them into the expanding phase, where residents can complete actions independently.

Current Initiatives

Climate Lens

Science has demonstrated that our climate is already experiencing changes, and these changes will continue to increase in intensity, severity and impact. In the future, Kwinana and the surrounding greater Perth region will experience higher average temperatures, increased frequency of hot days and heatwaves, lower rainfall, increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, increased fire prone conditions and sea levels will continue to rise (BOM 2024). The City uses a climate change lens under the *Environment Strategy 2024-2034*, to promote education under the knowledge that climate change is occurring and creates impacts that affect council operations and daily life. The Sustainability Team provide information to our community on the impacts of climate change and how to mitigate these. This can be found on the City's website, where our community can also learn what the City is doing to reduce its corporate emissions and adapt to our changing climate.

Decarbonisation

Within the *City's Energy Plan 2023-2026* and *Climate Change Plan 2021-2026*, there are specific actions involving community education. These are led by the Sustainability Team and are often run in the form of

workshops and awareness campaigns. The benefits associated with our community learning to improve their energy efficiency and climate change literacy includes: reduced bills, less pressure on local resources a reduction in community-based greenhouse gas emissions and improve our community's capacity to implement change in their own lives.

Water Management

The City's *Water Plan 2024-2028*, includes actions that encourage community engagement around water and developing communications to the public about water-focussed events and milestones. The Sustainability Team leads the events in this space with the aim of increasing water efficiency and knowledge about water within the landscape.

Sustainability Framework

The City has commenced internal implementation of its Sustainability Framework, integrating the framework's principles and priority areas into its corporate actions and strategic approach. The next phase will involve planning the introduction of the framework to our community. This will improve sustainability literacy and create transparency around how the City is working towards a sustainable city.

Opportunities

- Improved community engagement in sustainability
- Community energy and emissions education
- Sustainability Framework community education
- Transparency for corporate emissions reporting
- Potential for a community sustainability snapshot

Limitations

- Unknown level of community sustainability literacy
- Behaviour change is inherently challenging to achieve



Targets

- Hold a minimum of 3 Sustainability workshops per annum
- Implement community education on Sustainability Framework by 2026

6.2. Environmental Planning

Environmental planning is the process of assessing the environmental attributes and impacts relevant to planning and development proposals to facilitate decision making. The aim of environmental planning is to strike a balance between human development and construction activities with the preservation of local natural areas, biodiversity and ecosystem health. It considers a range of development processes, from single residential lot development: large scale subdivisions of local town planning schemes, land use, zoning and development within the Kwinana Industrial Area. This process considers development and associated impacts on all land, including privately owned landholdings, State owned land and reserves, and natural areas owned and/or managed by the City.

Environmental Planning prepares and informs policy relevant to the environmental assets of the City, such as tree preservation and vegetation retention, climate change and sea level rise. It also assists in the development and assessment of the local planning scheme, local and district structure plans. There is a need to improve community understanding around the mandatory restrictions on activities and development on private land to preserve our local environment. This Plan aims to address this.

Current Initiatives

Biodiversity Stewardship Program

In late 2023, the City's Environmental Planning team developed and commenced implementation of the City's Biodiversity Stewardship Program as a key action in the City's *Local Biodiversity Strategy*. The Biodiversity Stewardship Program aims to assist private landowners with the protection and enhancement of significant biodiversity by providing environmental management advice, seedlings for revegetation, funding for weed management and environmental workshops. The program is currently in its pilot phase and focused within the Wellard Special Rural Zone on properties that were identified in the Local Biodiversity Strategy as having high biodiversity and local natural area values. It is intended that the program will grow alongside funding to allow for its expansion into other areas with private properties containing high conservation value (such as in Anketell, Casuarina and Wandí).

Special Rural Zone welcome letters

In late 2023, the Environmental Planning team commenced an environmental planning education campaign to assist existing and new landowners of properties within the Special Rural Zones in Wandí, Anketell, Casuarina and Wellard. Letters were sent to all existing landowners that provided information to assist them to manage and understand the planning and environmental restrictions that occur on their property. A process has now been established to provide new landowners with this information when they purchase property in these areas.

Community Education and Advice

Ad-hoc community engagement and education occurs through the planning process such as site visits to properties subject to planning applications, over the phone with applicants or during consultation with neighbouring residents or interested community stakeholders. Environmental advice at this level is often tailored to the individual property in question but provides opportunities for environmental education at a larger ecosystem level, such as mapping of wetland systems, identification of larger, connected vegetation communities and threatened ecological communities. Environmental Planning advice also includes topics such as tree pruning and removal approval requirements, local biodiversity attributes and education about the planning process regarding environmental assessment and planning outcomes.

Enforcement and compliance actions are used by Environmental Planning to provide education and awareness raising of environmental planning requirements and biodiversity protection outcomes. Under Section 214 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*, the City can issue a Directions Notice to a landowner to restore their land, where unauthorised development such as clearing of native vegetation has occurred. Directions to restore the land may require the landowner to undertake regeneration monitoring, mulching and topsoil replacement, revegetation or weed management actions designed to restore the land and vegetation to a condition resembling its pre-development state.

Urban Forest Strategy (UFS)

The City of Kwinana's Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) guides the management, protection and overall health of our urban forest. Urban forest is defined as a leafy cover from tree canopy that provides environmental, social, psychological and recreational benefits in cities and towns. With the loss of canopy rarely under direct control of the City or its operations, the UFS aims to achieve better retention of trees and to enhance urban canopy. The City will improve community awareness around the state planning framework, the role that local government plays within this process and how this has created a need for the UFS. Other strategic City documents that influence our urban forest include the *Local Biodiversity Strategy* (LBS) and *Local Planning Policy number 1* (LPP1). These help to manage the City's canopy through the development and planning process.

Opportunities

- Promotion of roles of Local Government in the planning approval process
- Increase community awareness around the urban forest and the link to mitigating Climate Change impacts
- Further expansion of the Biodiversity Stewardship Program into all special rural areas that contain environmental assets, and the creation of local Stewardship Champions
- Promotion of opportunities for input for residents



- Development of a Special Rural Landowners workshop series that covers relevant planning matters and helps landowners identify and manage environmental attributes and issues on their property (e.g. declared weeds, rare flora, fauna habitat, dieback, seed collection, revegetation etc)
- Improved and updated planning and development pages on City website, to provide relevant and current information to assist landowners to identify environmental matters and how local planning policy impacts the development or land-use on their property
- Educate residents on state planning process to raise awareness of developments in the area

Limitations

- Varied levels of property owner motivation to engage in environmental conservation
- Staff resourcing
- Funding
- Voice in the State Planning Framework

Targets

- Develop and implement an annual Communications Plan for Environmental Planning by 2026 starting with the UFS and ongoing through different campaigns
- Develop and implement a communications campaign outlining the City's roles related to subdivision and illegal clearing of vegetation
- Circulate special rural zone planning information letters to every new landowner in the area.

6.3. Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

Over 90% of Western Australia is classified by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) as bushfire prone and approximately 70% of the City is classified as bushfire prone (DFES, 2024). This creates a need for community education on the risks of bushfire and other natural disasters, how to protect themselves and how to mitigate the impacts of these events and reduce the risk to life and property. The Emergency Services Team and its Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades play a crucial role in the protection of Kwinana and its residents from the risk of bushfire and natural disasters. Developing a resilient community in this space is important for future success.

Residents and businesses in the City need to be prepared to manage the impacts of natural disasters including bushfire, ensuring they are working towards becoming self-sufficient in how they can protect themselves and others within their communities.

Current initiatives

Preparedness Advice and External Communications

The Emergency Services Team, Rangers and Volunteer Bushfire Brigades provide annual fire preparedness advice to properties to raise awareness and ensure bushfire prevention measures are in place to mitigate the bushfire risk in the summer bushfire high threat period. This program aligns with Local Government responsibilities under the Bushfires Act 1954 and is a tool for residents to take measures to further prepare for the risks associated with fire and natural events. It is also an opportunity for community engagement and education while conducting compliance inspections. The Emergency Services Team utilise the City's social media platforms to advise the community of increased fire risk within the City on certain days (total fire bans and harvest vehicle movement bans) and forecast extreme weather events year-round such as storms, heavy rain and strong winds. These communications are updated regularly to emphasise the need to prepare properties at risk from natural hazards.

Community Events

The Emergency Services Team has had an increasing presence at community events and activities over the last few years, helping to raise awareness throughout the community and reach groups and people they may not have otherwise. The City's two Volunteer Bushfire Brigades regularly attend events such as the Twilight Markets, School Colour Runs and Kwinana Children's Festival. At these events, the Bushfire Brigades and Emergency Services Team engage with the community by answering questions that residents have and providing information on bushfire and disaster preparedness. An open day was held in 2023 at Kwinana South Volunteer Fire Station, allowing residents to see into the operations at the fire station and to encourage residents to undertake fire and disaster preparedness on their own properties. This event highlighted the importance of fire preparedness in Kwinana and the significant role it plays in protecting residents' lives and

property.

Other Community Engagement

The City's Emergency Services Team in conjunction with the City's Rangers provide community visits and attend events hosted by other City departments when suitable opportunities are identified. Firebreak and hazard compliance inspections undertaken in the lead up to the bushfire high threat period are a key part of the engagement schedule for the Emergency Services Team and Rangers. This provides an opportunity to communicate and engage residents with fire preparedness information and improvement tips as well as inspecting compliance with the City's fire notice at all properties across the district. This is often supported by the City's social media communications to update and inform residents on the importance of fire preparedness.

Opportunities

- Establishment of Bushfire Ready Groups within at-risk communities
- Improve volunteerism and recruitment for Volunteer Emergency Services (Bushfire Brigades)
- Improved social media presence of volunteer bushfire brigades by sharing City led communications out to the community on a regular basis
- Building resources internally at the City of Kwinana for community engagement and disaster preparedness
- Holding workshops such as Firewise planting and asset protection zone preparedness
- Pre-emptive engagement with property owners to comply with the City's Fire Notice.
- Improved engagement and resources for diverse and vulnerable communities, particularly low socio-economic, elderly, disabled, indigenous and youth
- Improved alignment of activities with the City's Sustainability Framework

Limitations

- Resourcing for staff attendance at events
- Seasonal conditions
- Personnel conditions
- High threat period/emergency response

Targets

- Deliver a minimum of two community education programs at City events annually
- Hold one Disaster Preparedness focused event annually
- Develop an annual communications plan to support Disaster preparedness throughout the year

6.4. Environment

The City's Environment Team is the point of call for residents regarding native fauna and flora, feral animal control, private tree enquiries, environmental volunteering opportunities, and revegetation within the City. The City of Kwinana is part of a biodiversity hotspot that makes up the South-west of Western Australia and includes distinct landscapes from wetlands to beaches. Kwinana has several biodiverse areas, outlined in the Local Biodiversity Strategy, which includes threatened ecological communities such as Banksia Woodland and Tuart Woodland. The importance of these areas creates a need for community education, while providing practical outcomes that can be translated directly into resident's lives. Building further respect for the environment in Kwinana while learning skills such as planting and wildlife identification, helps to increase resilience to environmental challenges within the City.

Current Initiatives

The City's Environment Team delivers a range of Environmental Education programs, that improve the community's awareness and understanding of our natural environment and our impacts upon it. Through these activities, community members can make a practical contribution to improving their local natural environment. These include:

- Cultural walks and education
- Community plantings and revegetation
- A variety of guided nature walks
- Feral animal and private tree advice
- Environmentally significant days, such as Clean up Australia Day

The Environment Team also provide education opportunities at City-wide events such as Kwinana Children's Festival, enabling younger residents to learn about the environment through hands-on activities. Community planting days are held in local natural area reserves, engaging both residents and local schools. Residents learn valuable skills that translate into everyday life, building resilience and helping our local environment.

Seedling Subsidy

Each year, the City runs a Native Seedling Subsidy Scheme to educate residents on the benefits of planting native plants in their gardens. Seedlings are offered at a subsidised rate. This annual program has been popular for many years.

The City hosts a Native Verge Garden Workshop to complement the Seedling Subsidy each year. The workshop provides residents with information around appropriate species selection, things to consider when planning a garden and tips on planting to improve success.

Cat Local Law

The City has adopted a Cat Local Law with the intent to exercise regulations related to responsible cat ownership conferred under the WA Cat Act 2011.



Opportunities

- Community education on the importance of responsible cat ownership in protecting local native fauna
- Further expanding seedling subsidy scheme
- Adapting workshop topics to suit community interests
- Developing Education boards (QR codes etc) in areas with high ecological value
- Developing and delivering programs for schools and groups

Limitations

- Budget allocated to environmental education
- Staff resourcing
- A warmer, drier climate may impact potential community planting days
- Varying levels of motivation among community to engage in environmental activities

Targets

- Provide a minimum of four environmental workshops annually
- Hold a minimum of five community planting sessions per annum
- Develop a Community Resilience Plan

6.5. Natural Areas

The Natural Areas Team is responsible for the maintenance and enhancement of City-managed Natural Areas (NA) and this work is directed by the Natural Areas Management Plan 2024–2029. Our local community have consistently indicated that the natural environment is a priority for them, making its effective management a critical service for the City.

Targets

- Develop signage plan
- Install and implement signage in pathogen affected areas

Current Initiatives

Herbicide Program Notification

The City maintains a register for chemically sensitive residents who reside directly adjacent to City-managed NA reserves. Prior to significant seasonal herbicide application programs (e.g. the winter grass weed program) all registered residents are contacted via letter or email to notify them of the program duration, if they wish to remain on the register and to update relevant personal information such as contact details and health issues. When a herbicide application program is scheduled near their property, residents are informed in advance so they can plan for necessary precautions such as relocating, closing windows and doors, or staying inside. The Natural Areas Team acknowledges requests from registered residents to avoid spraying herbicide for specific reasons, such as when a resident is incapacitated and housebound. In these cases, weeds adjacent to the resident's house are removed by brush-cutting or mowing.

Media notifications are also issued prior to the bushland winter grass spraying program, with announcements published in the local newspaper and the City's website.

Signage

Signage to inform or warn the community is used by the Natural Areas team in a variety of situations. Temporary fauna crossing signage is placed adjacent to City roads that are seasonally frequented by native wildlife and advises drivers to watch out for wildlife on the road in those areas. Other animal regulatory and warning signage is positioned within NA reserves or on access gates such as to warn the community of snakes or to request dogs be kept on-leash. During herbicide application works, caution signage is positioned at main reserve access points to provide information on the herbicide being applied and to advise people to avoid the works area. Generic mowing signage is used in the vicinity of relevant works. For contracted firebreak maintenance works, specific signage is used to close off reserve access points while the work is in progress.

Community Event Support

Natural Areas field staff directly contribute to community planting days and the Wildflower Walk by preparing sites in advance and assisting the Environment Team on each scheduled day. Field staff also provide support to community groups that facilitate volunteer work benefiting natural areas.

Opportunities

- Dieback information and regulatory signage installation in affected NA reserves
- Increased presence at environmental events

Limitations

- Staff capacity to be involved in additional events



6.6. Coastal and Marine

Perth NRM in partnership with the City delivers coastal care initiatives along Kwinana's coastline and provides valuable cultural knowledge about the area. Perth NRM have a set of deliverables developed in consultation with the City, which include community education actions involving Kwinana residents.

Targets

- 3 community activities annually
- 7 school-based activities annually
- 2 events with corporate groups

Community Engagement

Perth NRM inform our community on current impacts being experienced along Kwinana's coastline and deliver activities such as plantings to restore the coastline, provide cultural education sessions to create a deeper connection to the coastal environment. Local school students also learn about coastline challenges through plantings and cultural experiences, encouraging action and promoting the importance of conservation at this formative learning stage. In 2023, Perth NRM engaged 303 people during the delivery of seven community activities and seven school-based activities. Aboriginal cultural education helps younger members of our community learn about reconciliation and the significance of the environment to Aboriginal communities, while providing opportunities for them to engage with Aboriginal leaders within the Kwinana community.

Coastal Restoration and Management

Perth NRM use workshops and practical demonstrations to facilitate positive environmental outcomes for the Kwinana coastline. Providing education on coastal

impacts to local schools, groups, and individual residents encourages them to help Perth NRM's work in protecting the coast from degradation, through plantings and coastal restoration practices. Perth NRM has undertaken works within Challenger Beach, Wells Park, and Naval Base Horse Beach, improving over 7 hectares of coastal reserve, planting 2,700 native seedlings and installing 500m² of jute matting for coastal erosion protection. Perth NRM is helping to build resilience within the local community, through understanding the impacts affecting the coast, and providing opportunities to help conserve the coastline.

Opportunities

- Collaborating with City of Kwinana teams in community education events to incorporate Marine and Coastal education
- Promotion and education through the City's social media channels
- Increased presence in Kwinana schools
- Collaboration with industry in developing greater coastal awareness

Limitations

- Increasing erosion of coastline reducing areas suitable for rehabilitation works

6.7. Waste and Circularity

Waste and Circularity education is directed by the City's Waste Plan and Waste Education Plan and implemented by the Waste Team. The Waste Team inform the community on appropriate waste segregation, how to dispose of different types of waste and provide general waste advice. Further information is available in the City's Waste Guide distributed annually to residents or available to view on the City's website.



7. Implementation Plan

No	Description	Existing / Updated / New	Responsibility (where relevant, action lead officer indicated in bold)	Timeframe	Resourcing	Measure of success
General						
1	Deliver events that promote awareness of biodiversity and provide positive experiences in natural areas throughout Kwinana	Existing	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas Human Resources	Annually	Staff time	Numbers of events delivered
2	Continue to deliver environmental education through cross-departmental projects and events (eg. Childrens festival, OMG, Honeywood markets)	Existing	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas	Annually	Staff time	Number of community events where environment-focused engagement activities have been delivered
3	Continue to provide information-based workshops for Kwinana residents on local environmental issues and opportunities	Updated	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas	Annually	Staff time	Number of workshops delivered
4	Compile information and add it to the Knowledge and Resource Library (KARL) and relevant City web pages based on common enquiries received by the Environment, Environmental Planning, Emergency Services and Natural Areas teams	New	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas	Annually	Staff time	Relevant information added to KARL and City's web pages
5	Continue to hold the annual Living Green season of events (April – June) providing a range of activities focused on the environment and sustainability	Existing	Sustainability Officer Environment Officer	April – June Annually	Staff time	Living Green program delivered annually
6	Create a friends group Volunteer Guideline to support the development of new groups	New	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas Human Resources	2025-2027	Staff time	Volunteer Guideline published, promoted and available on City's website
7	Continue to provide support to existing community and volunteer groups to undertake a variety of activities	Existing	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas	Annually	Staff time	Records of the support provided to community groups

No	Description	Existing / Updated / New	Responsibility (where relevant, action lead officer indicated in bold)	Timeframe	Resourcing	Measure of success
8	Provide environment, sustainability and emergency services information via digital screens, posters and hardcopy flyers at public City facilities (eg. Library, creches and community centres)	Updated	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Office Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas	Ongoing	Staff time	Records of where and when these have been on display at public facilities
9	Monitor and apply for relevant grant funding opportunities for Emergency services, sustainability, Natural areas, Environment and Environmental Planning.	New	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner	Annually/ ongoing	Staff time	Number of applications submitted and grants awarded
10	Utilise promotional channels, the Zone Youth Space and the Kwinana Youth Advisory Council (KYAC) to engage local youth and increase their participation in environment and sustainability events	New	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas Coordinator Community Services and Partnerships	Ongoing	Staff time	Number of youth targeted promotional posts, posters and staff visits to the Zone and KYAC
11	All teams included in this Plan to develop and implement an annual Communications Plan to ensure priority messages are delivered to our community	New	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas Senior Marketing and Communications Officer	Annually	Staff time	Communications Plan developed and implemented each year by all teams
12	Continue to provide internal (staff) environmental education and activities (eg. Sustainability Framework, staff plantings, fire readiness training, wildflower walk)	Updated	Sustainability Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environment Officer Environmental Planner Technical Officer – Natural Areas	Annually	Staff time	Number of education events and activities delivered
13	Seek partnerships and collaborate with schools to engage in environment and sustainability education programs and activities	Updated	Sustainability Officer	Annually	Staff time	Kwinana schools provided with information on sustainability programs

Implementation Plan

continued

No	Description	Existing / Updated / New	Responsibility (where relevant, action lead officer indicated in bold)	Timeframe	Resourcing	Measure of success
Environment and Natural Areas						
14	Conduct events that provide education on local flora, wildlife and areas of cultural significance in the City (eg. Wildflower walk, Nightstalks, Sloans Reserve cultural walks)	Updated	Environment Officer	Annually	Staff time	Increased uptake and registrations to environment events
15	Develop a signage plan, install new informational signage in City dieback affected parks and reserves. New interpretive signage on local flora, fauna and history	Updated	Environment Officer Technical Officer – Natural Areas	2025–2027	\$10,000 Annually	new signs installed
16	Investigate options to educate cat owners on their responsibilities associated with cat prohibited areas declared in the City's Cat Local Law	New	Environment Officer Essential Services	2024–2025	Staff time	Education options investigated
17	Community Planting Events delivered as part of annual revegetation program	Existing	Environment Officer Technical Officer – Natural Areas	May – July Annually	Staff time	Number of community planting events delivered
18	Continue to deliver an annual Seedling Subsidy Scheme in combination with educational workshops to support our community to plant native waterwise gardens	Updated	Sustainability Officer Environment Officer	Annually	\$10,000 annually	Seedling subsidy and native waterwise garden workshop delivered annually
19	Investigate volunteer management software to create a streamlined contact and administration process for contact with the City	New	Environment Officer Volunteer Centre Coordinator	2025–2026	Staff time	Volunteer management determined
20	Continue to partner with Perth NRM to support the delivery of their Connecting Kwinana's Community to Coast Program	Existing	Manager Environment and Health Services Coastal and Marine Program Manager	Annually	\$20,000 annually	Connecting Kwinana's Community to Coast annual works program delivered
21	Deliver citizen science projects and assess project outcomes. (eg Turtle Trackers, Keep Cockatoos Flying, Quenda Count, Great Cocky Count, Re-wild)	Updated	Environment Officer	Ongoing	Staff time	Number of participants and citizen science projects delivered
22	Create a school holiday-based environment and sustainability program to complement Living Green and Biodiversity Month	New	Sustainability Officer Environment Officer	2024–2026	Staff time	School holiday programs delivered

No	Description	Existing / Updated / New	Responsibility (where relevant, action lead officer indicated in bold)	Timeframe	Resourcing	Measure of success
Disaster and Emergency Preparedness						
23	Plan and deliver workshops that include bushfire mitigation and landholder bushfire preparation obligations	New	Coordinator Emergency Services	2025–2026	\$15,000 annually Staff time	Number of workshops delivered
24	Emergency Services staff to attend community events to raise awareness for emergency preparedness	New	Coordinator Emergency Services	Ongoing	Staff time	Number of City events where Emergency Services team have attended
25	Set up a champions group for bushfire preparedness within each rural suburb in Kwinana	New	Coordinator Emergency Services Bushfire Mitigation Officer	2027–2028	Staff time	Champion groups established in each rural suburb
26	Host a Fire station open day with associated workshops every two years	New	Coordinator Emergency Services Bushfire Mitigation Officer	2025 and 2027	Staff time Workshop costs	Fire station open days in 2025 and 2027
27	Develop a Community Resilience Plan	New	Coordinator Emergency Services Bushfire Mitigation Officer	2025–2030	\$25,000	Community Resilience Plan developed and implemented
Environmental Planning						
28	Skills-based training workshops for rural landholders, Eg. Plant and weed identification, weed control, Environmental Planning requirements, bushfire mitigation	Existing	Environment Officer Coordinator Emergency Services Environmental Planner	2024–2027	Staff time	One workshop delivered each year
Sustainability						
29	Continue to deliver a 7-week Living Smart course annually	Existing	Sustainability Officer	Annually	In budget (\$7,500/year)	Living Smart course delivered annually
30	Develop an implementation plan to introduce the Sustainability Framework to our community	New	Sustainability Officer	2024–2025	Staff time	Implementation Plan

8. Financial Implications

The financial implications of this plan are minimal outside of operating budget. New budget items are:

Natural Areas – \$10,000 annually, under the Natural Areas Management Plan for signage.

Disaster and Emergency Preparedness – \$25,000 for the creation of a Community Resilience Plan and an education budget of \$15,000 annually, to help support increased events and education pieces.

9. Monitoring and Reporting

The status of implementation plan actions will be reviewed annually to ensure that their progress is monitored and reported. This Plan will undergo a mid-cycle review in 2027 to update actions and data to ensure the City remains up to- date with strategic changes and community preferences.

The City will monitor the success of the Plan through environmental activity and event surveys and regular community engagement opportunities.

10. References

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