

An aerial photograph of the Kwinana area, showing a mix of urban development and green spaces. A white location pin icon is placed over the city center.

# Tomorrow's Kwinana

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Effective planning today, helps to shape the Kwinana of tomorrow.

A decorative graphic consisting of several parallel green lines that curve from the left side of the page and then extend horizontally to the right, ending in arrowheads.

### KWINANA BIODIVERSITY AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY VALUES

The City of Kwinana is situated in one of the world's biodiversity hot-spots. For a region to be a biodiversity hotspot it has to have over 1,500 endemic plants and have lost over 70 per cent of the original extent of these species. The City has a primary role to play in protecting, enhancing and advocating for the protection of this area, to ensure that the environment continues to be a community asset for present and future generations.

#### Values and Benefits of Conserving Biodiversity

The conservation of biodiversity is important given the wide ranging benefits that it provides for the environment, society and the economy. Some of the benefits include:

- Environmental benefits – biodiversity supports ecosystem services and a healthy, functioning natural environment, which in turn provides critical requirements for humans such as clean air, water and food.
- Social benefits – biodiversity contributes to a sense of place and amenity, and provides for recreation, education, research and spiritual pursuits.
- Economic benefits – biodiversity supports important industries such as fisheries, forestry, agriculture and tourism, and buffers sensitive land uses.

In short, biodiversity plays a vital role in sustaining the living networks and systems that provide humans with health, food, wealth, fuel and the vital services our lives depend on. The benefits derived from protecting biodiversity are both tangible, such as economic returns and tourism, and intangible, such as heritage values and the mere existence of humanity.

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### Biodiversity Conservation Methods at the Local Government level in WA

Local Government is a key stakeholder and decision-maker under the State's land use planning system and as such has an important role to play in balancing biodiversity conservation and development. In recognition of this role, the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) and Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) have both prepared guidance documents to assist Local Governments in integrating biodiversity conservation principles and tools within their local planning instruments.

Local Governments in Western Australia directly influence biodiversity conservation by:

- Managing the Local Government's natural areas to protect and restore biodiversity, restore ecological corridors, and minimise the impacts of pest species;
- Encouraging urban biodiversity through the use of native species in streetscapes and public open spaces;
- Promoting waterway health in urban, rural and natural areas by protecting or restoring riparian vegetation, managing stormwater and grey water, reducing sediment and chemical loads in run-off, and protecting coastal vegetation; and
- Using Local Planning Policies to minimise ecological impacts of urban development.

Local Governments indirectly influence biodiversity conservation by:

- Influencing land management practices on private land through incentives, education and other schemes;
- Advocating to State and Federal government for improved biodiversity outcomes;
- Encouraging and supporting community actions that protect and enhance biodiversity; and
- Raising community awareness and encouraging appreciation of the Local Government area and wider region's biodiversity values.

### Threats to City's Biodiversity

Originally, the City had 11,980 ha of natural areas (i.e. pre-European). A total of 4,490 ha now remains (i.e. 2,342 ha under State Government protection and 2,148 ha Local Natural Areas). Protecting the Local Natural Areas (LNA), which contain biodiversity areas and biodiversity values is the responsibility of the City, and these LNAs exist in privately owned land, Public Open Spaces, and City managed reserves.

Many LNAs in the City have been cleared or modified for farming, industrial and residential development purposes. Currently the biodiversity in the City is under threat from a variety of sources. These include:

- Clearing of vegetation causing habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation;
- Bush fires affecting flora and fauna;
- Discharging stormwater affecting native vegetation, wetlands and waterways;
- Invasion by weeds and pest animals and damage by introduced pathogens (Dieback);
- Lack of knowledge, understanding and awareness about dumping of rubbish, soils and garden wastes in areas of native vegetation; and
- Accelerated climate change.

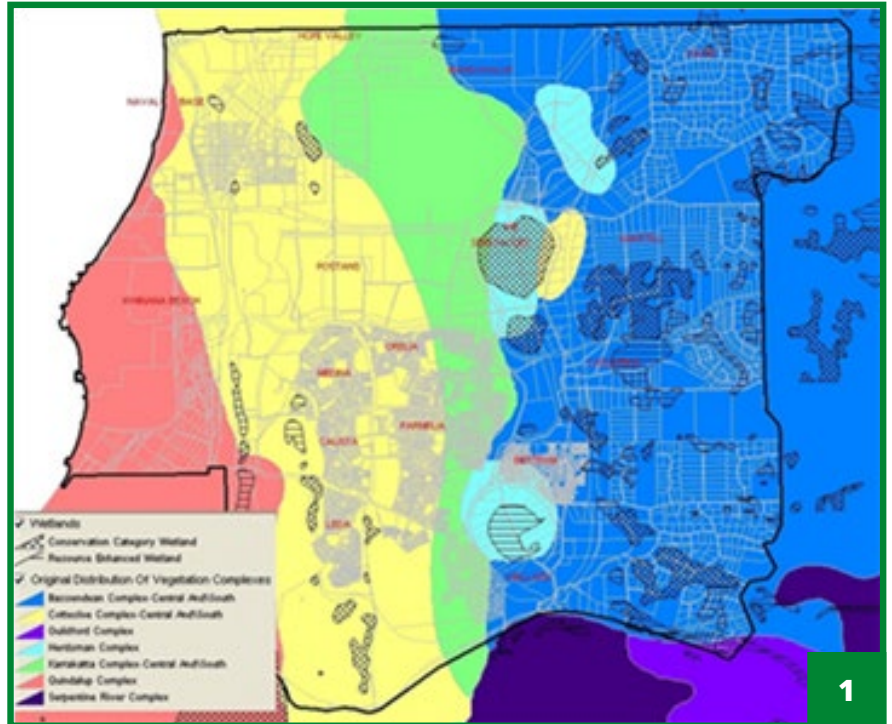


## HAVE YOUR SAY

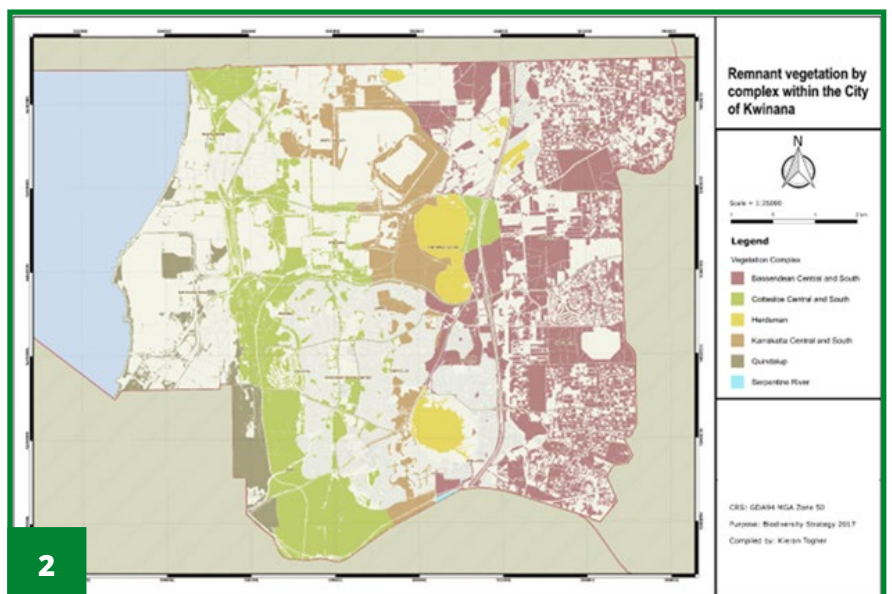
### What does the City do to protect Biodiversity?

The City of Kwinana currently adopts the following methods to retain, protect and manage biodiversity values and areas, particularly the LNAs:

- Planning Framework
  - The City's *Local Planning Scheme 2 and Map - "Areas of Landscape Protection"* have been identified with the intent to conserve areas of natural ecological value or landscape amenity.
  - The City's *Local Planning Policy No.1 - Landscape Features and Tree Retention* outlines the minimum requirements for investigation and management of significant trees and landscape features during the district and local structure planning stages, and subdivision applications.
- Management - The City's *Natural Areas Management Plan 2014-2024*, through appropriate management practices, preserves and improves both the community values and biodiversity values existing in the City managed reserves. The City actively manages 30 natural area reserves totalling an area of 370 hectares.
- Advocacy and Lobbying - The City pursues improved outcomes through advocacy, negotiation and lobbying to increase awareness of unique values present within the City. The City works closely with schools, community groups and the broader population to increase the awareness and appreciation of the biodiversity values present within the City.



**Map 1** Original extent of vegetation complexes in the City (adapted from the Local Biodiversity Strategy Draft for Public Discussion 2007)



**Map 2** Remnant Vegetation by Complex in the City of Kwinana

## HAVE YOUR SAY

### Community participation and feedback

Building awareness among the community is an integral part of protecting native vegetation, habitat and threatened species. In addition, recognising local knowledge and tapping into the wisdom and experience of the local community is a key factor underpinning successful habitat conservation initiatives.

To achieve the goal of retaining, protecting and managing biodiversity values, we require support from our community. Many important areas having biodiversity values are located on private land, and managing them for biodiversity generally relies on collaboration with private landholders.

Please provide feedback and as much information to the following questions:

1. How should areas of biodiversity value be prioritised for protection? What is the most important consideration to you?
2. How effective is the current planning framework in protecting biodiversity? What can be improved?
3. Do you support Local Planning Scheme provisions which assess the cumulative impact of development on biodiversity? If so, provide suggestions.
4. How can the City influence private landholders and provide support towards protecting or managing biodiversity values and areas? What sort of incentives can be considered?
5. Are there any other key opportunities and challenges you think the City should consider when responding to development, for example subdivision applications?
6. What type of regulations or approach do you think the City should adopt to conserve biodiversity in the context of climate change?
7. Do you have any specific suggestions to put forward for conserving biodiversity values that may be applied to the wider community?

### Where to from here?

Your feedback and suggestions will be considered when finalising the Local Biodiversity Study, followed by preparing the Local Biodiversity Strategy. The strategic directions and actions required for retaining, protecting and managing the biodiversity values and areas of the City will be incorporated in the City's Local Planning Strategy for the consideration and endorsement of the Western Australian Planning Commission.

Information and update on the process will be made available to the community through the City's website at [www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/tomorrowskwinana](http://www.kwinana.wa.gov.au/tomorrowskwinana).