



Local Biodiversity Strategy 2026-36

Part 1 Summary



One community,
standing together with nature



Photo credit: Kay Lehman

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Photo credit: Jarrad Seng

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Introduction



Photo credit: Greg Harewood

1 INTRODUCTION

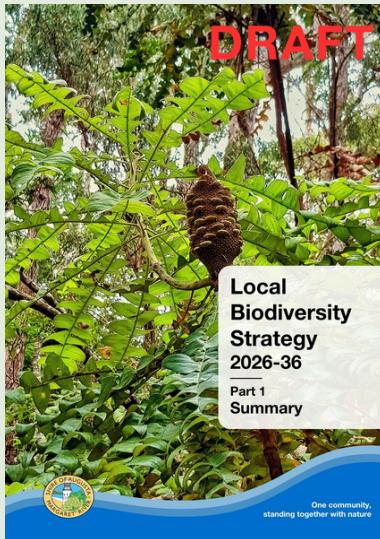
This Local Biodiversity Strategy (LBS) is a non-statutory document which provides a framework to foster community stewardship of local natural areas and guide biodiversity conservation management and initiatives in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. The LBS has been developed through a collaborative consultation process with the community, stakeholders and Shire staff over a two-year period.

The LBS incorporates a Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guideline process for assessing and prioritising Local Natural Areas (LNAs). This framework assists the Shire to identify conservation priorities within Shire vested land. We also want to support and encourage landholders to protect and manage LNAs (remnant native vegetation areas) on their properties.

The Strategy aims to focus management on the protection of high priority LNAs, working collaboratively on environmental initiatives with the community, landholders and partners, mainstreaming biodiversity in all Shire operations and creating a culture of stewardship towards the natural environment.

The Local Biodiversity Strategy is set out in two parts. Part 1 includes a summary of the purpose, vision, strategy framework, working with community, landholders and partners and action plan. Part 2 includes background technical investigations, maps and evaluation of local natural area values and prioritisation.

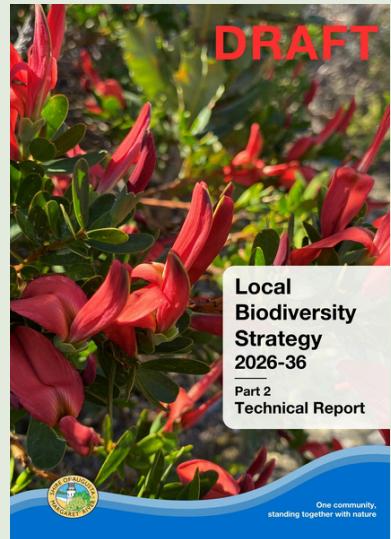
PART 1 - SUMMARY



- Purpose
- Vision
- Strategic framework
- Working with Community, Landholders and Partners
- Action plan



PART 2 - TECHNICAL REPORT



- Technical investigations
- Area maps
- LNA evaluation, values and prioritisation

As part of the Strategy a Local Biodiversity Action Plan has been developed to prioritise and guide decision making over the next 10 years.

The Shire looks forward to continuing to work together with the community, landholders and all partners to enjoy, manage and protect our unique biodiversity, cultural and landscape values.

This Local Biodiversity Strategy has been developed with support from the Western Australian Government's State Natural Resource Management (NRM) Program and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).



WALGA



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Our local biodiversity



Photo credit: Kay Lehman

2 OUR LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River has an extraordinary diversity of landscapes and natural environments with some of the richest and most unique reservoirs of plants and animal life on earth. Our sense of place is closely tied to the natural environment which is valued both in its own right and for its essential contribution to our health, wellbeing, prosperity and quality of life.

Protecting local biodiversity in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River is crucial, due to its unique ecological and cultural significance. The region is part of the Busselton to Augusta National Biodiversity Hotspot and the Southwest Australia international biodiversity hotspot, one of only 36 such hotspots globally, known for its rich diversity of plant and animal species, many of which are endemic and found nowhere else on Earth. The threat to their survival is heightened by factors such as habitat loss, climate change, and invasive species.

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River is a potential biodiversity refuge. As climate conditions continue to change with rising temperatures and declining rainfall, the cooler, wetter microclimates of the Capes region, including the forests and river systems, may provide critical havens for some species, including the Critically Endangered Western Ringtail Possum and Black Cockatoos. This capacity to act as a climate refuge adds urgency to protecting local biodiversity now, ensuring ecosystems are resilient and adaptive to the anticipated pressures.

Protecting biodiversity aligns with the cultural values of the traditional Wadandi and Pibelmen custodians, whose connection to Wadandi/Pibelmen Boodja (land, country) emphasises the importance of safeguarding both the natural environment and the cultural landscapes. The preservation of species, ecosystems and land features enhances cultural heritage, supporting the continuation of traditional practices and respect for the natural world.

Local biodiversity also plays a vital role in supporting productive agricultural land, recreational activities and tourism, which are key drivers of the region's economy. Biodiversity boosts agricultural resilience by, for example enhancing soil health, improving pest and disease resilience and providing pollination services – all necessary in ensuring long term food security. Remnant vegetation patches, shelter belts and individual trees on properties contribute to the movement of flora and fauna through the landscape and enhance climate resilience. The Shire's natural attractions—from the towering Karri forests to the stunning beaches, surf breaks and the rugged cliffs and caves of the Leeuwin-Naturaliste Ridge—offer immense value to residents and visitors alike. Protecting these environments ensures the continued enjoyment of these outdoor activities, promoting well-being and supporting agricultural and eco-tourism industries.

Biodiversity includes all living things and the relationships that connect them, and humans are part of this system. Our health, culture, and livelihoods depend on the ecosystems that sustain us. Recognizing humans as part of biodiversity reminds us that caring for nature also means caring for our own communities and future wellbeing.

The protection of biodiversity in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River supports ecological health, cultural values, climate resilience, and local economic and recreational benefits. It is essential that we work together to preserve these natural assets for the long-term benefit of the community and the environment.

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Photo credit: Ovis Creative

Welcome to Country

"Kaya, Nala Maat Kaya Noonduk (Hello, Our Family Welcomes You) to Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People's Country) – we all come together on Boodja (Country). Whilst on Wadandi Boodja we ask that you respect the land by walking softly and take the time to listen to Boodja as she Wongi (Talks).

We respect the presence of the Demmala Goomala (Ancestors) whose Djanga (Spirits) reside on Boodja and whose Djenna (Feet) walk the land and whose Djanga Korda (Heart Spirit) flows through all creation. Wooditjup (Margaret River) is the heart of Wadandi Boodja (Country), a meeting place between land and sea, connecting us all with Wadandi Boodja.

The Wadandi Boodja reaches from Bunbury, along the coast of Geographe Bay, extending to Yallingup (Place of Holes) to Taalinup, Augusta (Place of Reeds) inland to Nannup (The Stopping Place), taking in the region of Undalup (Busselton). The Wadan Boodja (Sea Country) is of great spiritual significance to the coastal Wadandi people.

Boodja – Land, Country, Mother Earth, Motherland – is our most important resource. No matter what culture or religion – all of us rely on Nala Boodja, Our Country.

It is up to all of us to listen to the land, understand the connection to Country that we all have and realise how urgent it is to work together to make better decisions on how we can create that balance, ensuring sustainability for the generations to come, in order to protect and preserve the beauty of Boodja.

Whilst living, travelling, visiting and holidaying on Wadandi Boodja (Saltwater People's Country) we ask that you respect the area and walk softly on the Country, taking the time to listen to Boodja (Country) as she Wongi (Talks) of the Season, and leave nothing but footprints".

**Wadandi Cultural Custodian
Wayne "Wonitji" Webb**

Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River acknowledges we are on Wadandi and Pibelmen Boodja, whose ancestors and their descendants are the traditional owners of this country.

We acknowledge the Wadandi and Pibelmen have been custodians since the land was soft (creation times) and continue to perform age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

The Shire is committed to Aboriginal Australians sharing fairly and equitably in the region's cultural, social, environmental and economic future.



CEO and Shire President's message

As a community we are extremely fortunate to live in a region that contains an extraordinary natural environment of forest, waterways and coastal areas. Our region contains productive agricultural land and iconic natural landscapes, and we have strong 'sense of place' and cultural connection to Boodja (the land). Biodiversity is the diversity of life on earth and is critical to our region as it drives the ecosystem services that support our quality of life.

We have strong community engagement in the management of our natural areas from landholders, stakeholders, schools, NRM groups, cultural custodians and the many volunteers including our Friends of Reserve Groups. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively together and to strengthen partnerships to protect our natural heritage for the future.

Local government has an important role to play in managing native vegetation and biodiversity assets as decision makers and land managers. The Shire of Augusta Margaret River is strongly committed to continuous improvement in biodiversity conservation management through proactive and best practice approaches to environmental planning and sustainable land management.

The delivery of this Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan provides a framework to guide biodiversity conservation management and initiatives in our region. It is my pleasure to present the Shire of Augusta Margaret River's Local Biodiversity Strategy.

Julia Jean-Rice
President, Shire of Augusta Margaret River





Our Shire is undergoing rapid and increasing development, and as a key tourist destination, high visitation numbers, placing significant pressure on our natural environment. Our natural environment faces a number of threats including weed invasion, habitat loss and fragmentation, impacts from a drying climate, and feral animals.

Local governments play an essential role in the conservation and management of biodiversity from within its own tenure (reserves) and partnering with landholders and stakeholders on biodiversity protection in our region. An important element of this Strategy is to build partnerships in our region, working with the community, landholders and stakeholders, to protect and enhance local natural areas including local and regional ecological linkages.

The Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy will guide the retention, protection and enhancement of our remnant vegetation and biodiversity assets into the future.

I would like to thank all the community members and stakeholders who provided valuable input into the preparation of this Local Biodiversity Strategy. Working together as a community, we all have a part to play in biodiversity conservation.

Andrea Selvey
Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Augusta
Margaret River

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Purpose and Vision

Photo credit: Kay Lehman

5 PURPOSE AND VISION OF THE LOCAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River's vision for the Local Biodiversity Strategy (LBS) is to:

Implement a nature positive approach for best-practice planning and operations for biodiversity protection, supporting community, landholders and partnership initiatives.

This strategy will foster community stewardship of local natural areas and embed the consideration of biodiversity as standard in all decisions and activities of the Shire.

The strategy is intended to guide the Shire in prioritising biodiversity initiatives on reserves managed by the Shire, and in identifying partnership opportunities to work with landholders and land-managers on projects outside those reserves on a voluntary participation basis. Any initiatives to protect natural areas off-Shire reserves, including on private property, are entirely voluntary on the part of the landholder.

Through strategic guidance, integrated with careful land use planning and active community involvement, we endeavour to create a sustainable and resilient ecological landscape that nurtures biodiversity for current and future generations.

This vision has guided the preparation of this strategy and will continue to guide and set the context for the implementation of the actions herein.

6

Strategic directions

Photo credit: Greg Harewood

6 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

To achieve the Shire's biodiversity vision the following strategic directions have been determined, which are:

- Protection of Local Natural Areas (LNAs)
- Enhancement and management of LNAs on Shire Reserves
- Protection and enhancement of strategic ecological linkages
- Working with partners
- Fostering community understanding, respect and stewardship for the environment
- Mainstream biodiversity in Shire operations and decision making.

7 Strategy methodology and Local Natural Areas



Photo credit: Kay Lehman

7 STRATEGY METHODOLOGY AND LOCAL NATURAL AREAS

The LBS has been developed in accordance with the Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines (Del Marco *et al.* 2004), and followed the methodology shown in **Figure 1**:

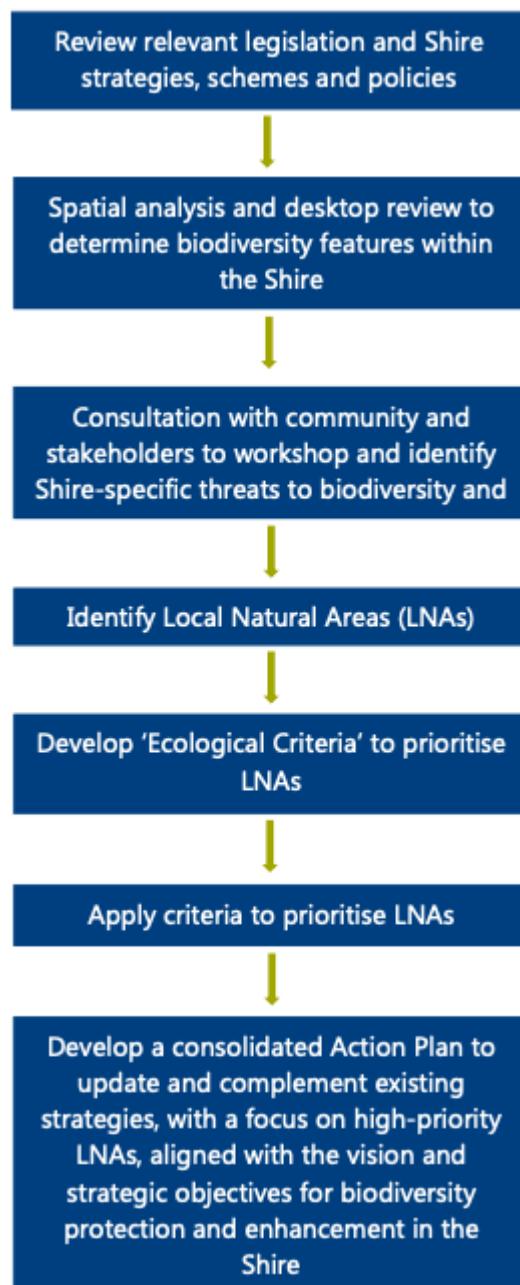


Figure 1 – Methodology for Development of the LBS

A key part of the methodology was to identify and prioritise Local Natural Areas (LNAs) for conservation, which are defined as remnant areas of native vegetation that do not include DBCA managed land. Local Natural Areas within the Shire are presented in **Figure 2**.

LNAs are mapped according to whether they are high, medium or low priority, which is based on an assessment of existing desktop biodiversity data. This method of LNA data analysis is detailed further in **Part 2**. While DBCA-managed lands (national parks, nature reserves, State forest etc) are not within the definition of an LNA, it is recognised that this land makes up the largest portion of the overall area of native vegetation in the Shire (over 46%), and is of significant importance for the protection of biodiversity in the region. To account for this, DBCA land has been included in the LNA map as a separate layer.

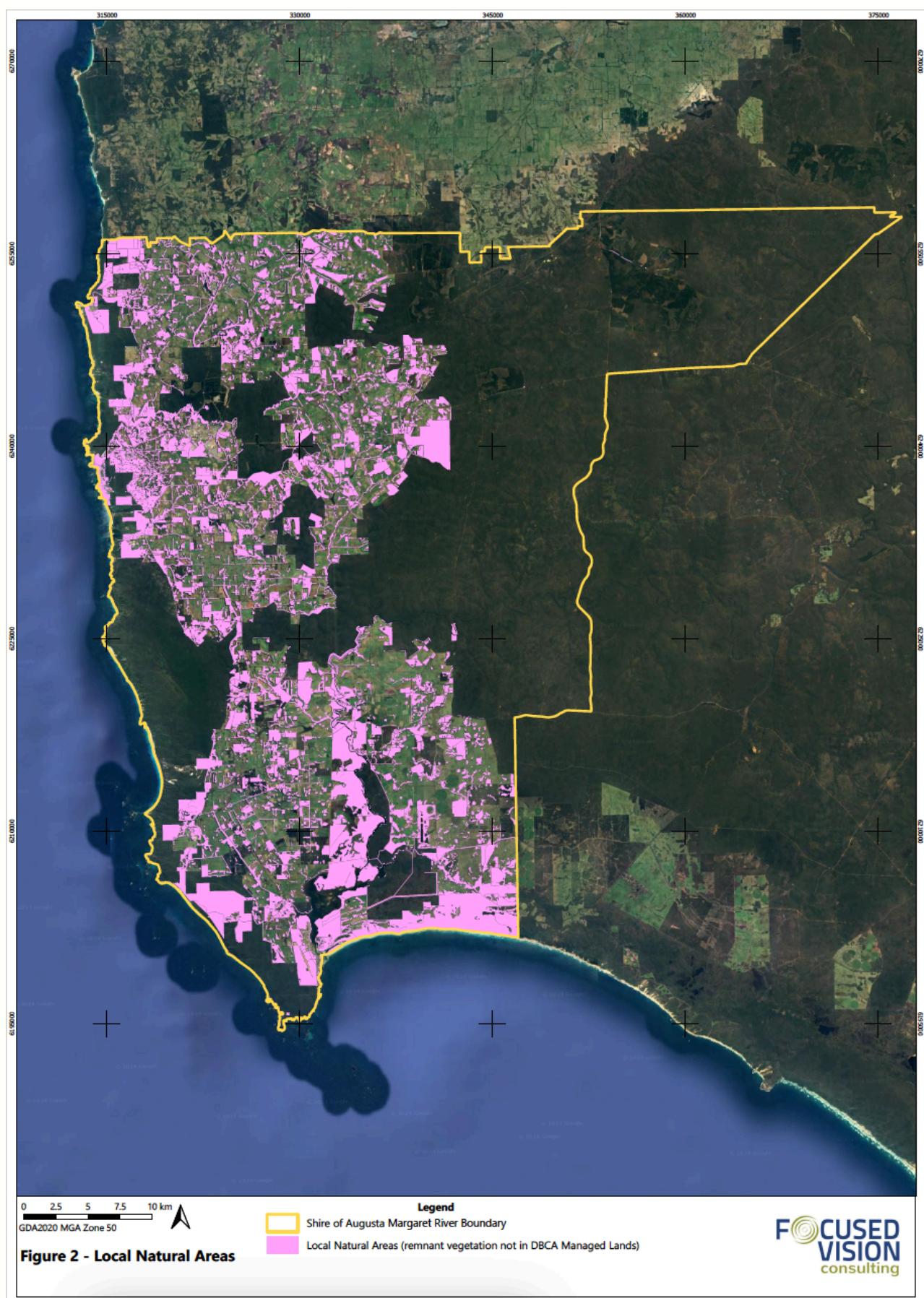


Figure 2 – Local Natural Areas (LNAs)

Information gained through mapping the Shire's LNAs has been used to help identify and prioritise opportunities to better protect and enhance biodiversity into the future. The LBS recognises that there are existing programs, schemes and policies within the Shire relating to the protection of its natural environment and biodiversity, and that there is a strong history of biodiversity conservation work that has already been undertaken by the Shire, community, landholders and other stakeholders. Using both the LNA mapping and community feedback, the LBS has been designed to complement and strengthen existing initiatives, and to recommend new actions where gaps or additional needs are identified.



Photo credit: Jenny Kikeros



Photo credit: Kay Lehman

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Working with the community, landholders and partners



8 WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY, LANDHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

Protecting and enhancing the Shire's local biodiversity is a shared responsibility between government agencies, land managers, the Shire and the community.

Shire reserves account for a very small percentage (2.1%) of remnant native vegetation remaining in the Shire. Partnership projects are key to undertaking successful biodiversity projects across the entire Shire.

The Shire has a long history of partnering on environmental initiatives with community/environment groups, NRM groups and landholders, cultural custodians, agencies and stakeholders. Through the Shire's Environmental Management Fund, Community Partnerships and Stewardship Grants we have supported numerous community and environmental projects including working collaboratively with NRM groups and cultural custodians to deliver strategic projects such as property biodiversity assessments, weed and feral animal control and revegetation projects.

The implementation of the LBS actions will assist in building future collaborative partnerships, including grant funding opportunities and voluntary biodiversity initiatives for landholders.

9

Action plan

Photo credit: Kay Lehman

9 ACTION PLAN

To achieve the Shire's vision for biodiversity and in alignment with the strategic directions, a 10-year Action Plan for biodiversity has been developed.

The Action Plan is based on the outcomes of the prioritisation of LNAs, community and stakeholder consultation, and the identification of suitable measures to combat threats to biodiversity in the Shire.

The Action Plan culminates the findings of the preparation of this LBS, maps the tasks for its implementation and provides a basis for the ongoing adaptation of LBS actions for the Shire in future iterations .The 10-year Action Plan is presented in **Table 1**.



Photo credit: Kay Lehman

Focus: Protection of Local Natural Areas

Objective: Increase the retention and protection of remaining local natural areas in the Shire.

1.1 Protecting LNAs on Shire Reserves	Timeframe	Directorate
Review Shire-vested reserves containing high priority LNAs, vegetation containing <30% of the original extent, or threatened and priority species and communities, and investigate the potential to change the purpose or reserve classification to reflect the high biodiversity conservation values and intended protection of the reserve.	2026-2028	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
Develop a Shire-wide biodiversity offsets strategy that investigates opportunities for identifying strategic offset sites for future protection and enhancement of LNAs and ecological corridors.	2027-2029	
Develop an Urban Forest Strategy to increase canopy cover shade for our community, increase amenity and habitat value, cool our public spaces and reduce the urban heat island effect.	2026-2027	
Update Policy 16, Vegetation Management on Shire Reserves, including repealing the clause that allows clearing for views in selected locations in Augusta.	2027-2028	
1.2 Protecting LNAs through planning processes		
Consider and apply the various planning instruments available (e.g. conservation covenant, vesting of foreshore reserves etc.) that protect remnant native vegetation through established subdivision and development processes.	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
Continue to ensure early and robust assessment of native vegetation impacts in planning processes with the aim of avoiding and minimising clearing and fragmentation of natural areas.		
Continue to make available Variations to the Firebreak Notice, where compliance with the Notice is not practical due to environmental considerations or site-specific constraints such as water course or steep gradients.		
Continue to consider environmental factors when reviewing the Firebreak Notice, and during on-ground firebreak inspections to ensure protection of biodiversity values is considered whilst planning for bushfire risk management on properties.		
Continue incorporating best practice water sensitive urban design in new subdivision plans.		

Focus: Enhancement and Management of Local Natural Areas on Shire Reserves

Objective: Undertake management to improve the condition of and reduce threats to Shire-managed local natural areas.

2.1 Reserve Planning and Management	Timeframe	Directorate
For all high priority LNAs identified on Shire-managed land, undertake a rapid assessment, based on desktop and field investigations, of vegetation condition, flora and fauna values, ecological linkages, and threats to these areas, e.g. weeds.	2026-2028	
Review, update and continue to implement existing Shire reserve management plans, and develop new reserve management plans for priority LNAs that address key values, threats and management requirements.	2026-2036	
For identified LNAs containing vegetation communities with <30% of the original extent remaining- prioritize actions that protect, enhance, and improve the long term resiliency of these communities.	2026-2028	
Establish a dedicated Bushland/Natural Areas Management Team, to work in collaboration with Parks and Gardens and Environment and Landcare Services, with appropriate experience and skills to implement reserve and natural area management actions.	2025-2026	
2.2 Biodiversity data management		
Make spatial data available on LNAs on the Shire's internal and external mapping systems.	2026-2027	
Make reserve management plans publicly available, with links to spatial data on internal mapping systems.	2026-2028	
Annually record and map management activities undertaken in priority LNAs, including weed control, feral animal control, erosion control, access management and revegetation.	2026-2036	
Investigate methods available and opportunities for improving local vegetation condition spatial data and for monitoring changes over time, e.g. remote sensing.	2026-2036	
		Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
		Corporate and Customer Services
		Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

2.3 Visitor and Access Management	Timeframe	Directorate
<p>For Shire reserves with high visitation, particularly coastal and river foreshores, identify and implement strategic access measures that ensure safe, controlled visitor movement and reduce environmental impacts, including closure and rehabilitation of unnecessary tracks and installation of fencing, gates, bollards, or signage as required.</p>	2026-2029	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<p>Develop or update interpretive signage at key visitation sites to highlight local biodiversity values and promote environmental awareness and stewardship.</p>	Ongoing	
<p>In collaboration with tourism partners, investigate potential projects that protect and improve the resiliency of biodiversity at key recreation and tourism sites.</p>	Ongoing	
2.4 Weed Management		
<p>In collaboration with stakeholders, including the Capes Environmental Weed Management Group review, update where necessary, and continue to implement the Shire's Weed Management Strategy (2014) and the Capes Regional Environmental Weed Strategy (Hanran-Smith, 2015).</p>	2026-2028	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<p>Continue to implement an annual environmental weed control program in Shire reserves, and to partner on strategic weed control programs including Nature Conservation Margaret River Region's 'Arum Lily Blitz'.</p>	Ongoing	
<p>Undertake ongoing monitoring and mapping of high priority environmental weeds across the Shire.</p>	Ongoing	
<p>Continue to implement an integrated weed management approach to weed control, based on the Shire's Integrated Weed Management Plan.</p>	Ongoing	
<p>Continue to support and provide advice to Friends of Reserve groups on manual removal of priority environmental weeds from reserves, and provide additional contractor weed control support where required.</p>	Ongoing	
2.5 Feral and domestic animals	Timeframe	Directorate
<p>Seek opportunities, including through grant funding, to implement rabbit, feral cat, fox, and pig control in Shire reserves where regional, cross-tenure outcomes can be achieved through collaboration with adjoining landholders, land managers, and NRM groups.</p>	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<p>Encourage responsible pet ownership through education campaigns, including the provision of outdoor cat enclosure (catio) subsidies.</p>		

2.6 Pathogens, Pests and Disease	Timeframe	Directorate
<p>Keep up to date on the latest research on threats to biodiversity of plant pathogens, pests and diseases including Phytophthora dieback, Marri canker, Myrtle rust, Avian flu and Polyphagous shot-hole borer, and adopt a proactive approach to implementing best practice management.</p>	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<p>Map Phytophthora dieback within Shire reserves containing priority LNAs or as identified in management plans or field assessments, and implement measures to protect dieback-free areas.</p>	2026-2028	
2.7 Fire risk mitigation		
<p>Continue to consult and seek advice from stakeholders and Friends of Reserve Groups about controlled burns in the context of potential biodiversity impacts.</p>		Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<p>Engage with Cultural Custodians to improve our knowledge of cultural fire practices as a means of enhancing the health of country and culture, and understanding of how these principles can be applied in current management practices.</p>		
<p>Continue internal collaboration between the Shire's Emergency Services and Environment and Landcare teams on the annual fire risk mitigation program, including mechanical works and proposed burns, that considers risks to significant biodiversity values, opportunities for invasive weed control, and post-fire weed management.</p>	Ongoing	
<p>Undertake post-fire monitoring to determine the outcomes of controlled burns, including changes in fuel, weeds, plant diversity and composition, and fauna observations.</p>		
<p>Continue to stay informed on current science and best practice for biodiversity protection while balancing fire risk mitigation in a drying climate</p>		



Photo credit: Greg Harewood

2.8 Revegetation and Rehabilitation	Timeframe	Directorate
Work in collaboration with Cultural Custodians and Rangers, local NRM and environmental groups, and Friends of Reserves volunteers to implement strategic revegetation projects in priority LNAs and ecological linkages using local provenance seed and seedlings.	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
Ensure revegetation projects incorporate plant species that support both foraging and nesting requirements of significant fauna, including black cockatoo species and western ringtail possum.	Ongoing	
Plan revegetation projects with future climate conditions in mind, selecting species and sites that will help build the resiliency and adaptation of habitats to a drying climate.	Ongoing	
Identify opportunities to progressively rehabilitate exhausted sections of gravel pits on Shire reserves, considering any rehabilitation conditions or criteria.	2027-2030	
2.9 Significant Flora, Fauna and Ecological Communities		
Work with DBCA to implement actions, relevant to local government, identified in threatened flora and fauna Recovery Plans.		Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
Work with DBCA, Cultural Custodians, and other stakeholders to identify collaborative projects that increase the protection of threatened or priority flora, fauna, and ecological communities on Shire reserves and road reserves. This may include improving efforts to manage threats to these values such as weeds, dieback and disease, grazing, and access.	Ongoing	
Continue to support and implement citizen science projects for threatened species, e.g. Beach-nesting birds project (Birdlife, DBCA, Cultural Rangers), and Save our Snake Necked Turtle (Murdoch, Nature Conservation).		
In partnership with stakeholders, consider the installation of artificial hollows, nesting boxes and/or artificial water sources for significant fauna in key locations.		
Actively promote the Owl Friendly Margaret River Region Campaign and continue to apply owl-friendly principles in Shire operations.		

2.10 Water Resources

In partnership with Cultural Custodians and NRM groups, prioritise actions that involve the restoration of Shire-managed river riparian zones, with a focus on weed control, erosion control, and revegetation in degraded areas.	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
Remove access for existing private domestic water abstraction from the Margaret River foreshore reserve once existing local law permits expire, and encourage the use of alternative water sources (e.g. additional rainwater tanks).		
Resource the ongoing maintenance of bioretention assets and other elements of water sensitive urban design on Shire reserves, with particular attention during the construction phase.		

Focus: Protection and Enhancement of Strategic Ecological Linkages

3

Objective: Improve the resilience of local natural areas by protecting, enhancing and increasing regional and local-scale ecological linkages and corridors.

3.1 Strategic ecological corridors	Timeframe	Directorate
Collaborate with NRM groups, land managers, and landowners—on a voluntary participation basis—on initiatives that enhance and consolidate key environmental corridors, including seeking external grant funding for on-ground habitat linkage projects.	2026-2036	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
Continue to identify and undertake restoration work, including weed control and revegetation, in LNAs in Shire reserves that enhance local-scale ecological corridors, including riparian zones, road reserves and recreation trail corridors.	Ongoing	
Consult with and complement work by other key organisations undertaking landscape scale revegetation works in the region, such as Gondwana Link.	Ongoing	

3.2 Roadside Vegetation

Develop a ‘Guideline for the Management of Roadside Native Vegetation’ for Shire road reserves that includes procedures for implementing best practice road maintenance while protecting roadside vegetation, and considers environmental values in road reserves, including threatened flora and ecological communities, and ecological connectivity.	2026-2036	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
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Focus: Working with Partners

Objective: Achieve regional-scale, cross-tenure protection of local natural areas by supporting and working collaboratively with the Shire's partners and the community.

4.1 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage	Timeframe	Directorate
<p>Continue to build strong and mutually respectful relationships with our Cultural Custodians, to seek advice, share knowledge and work collaboratively on projects that protect biodiversity and culture on Wadandi/Pibelmen Boodja in accordance with the Shire's Jenna Yen Mandamung (Walking Together) Strategy, 2023-2028.</p> <p>Engage with Cultural Ranger Teams to undertake bush regeneration work in Aboriginal Heritage Sites on Shire Reserves.</p>	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<p>Continue to consult with Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation, and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage to seek approval under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 for activities in Registered Aboriginal Heritage Sites</p>		Sustainable Economy and Communities
<p>Investigate opportunities to engage with Cultural Custodians through cross tenure environmental management and co- management opportunities with culturally sensitive species and sites.</p>		
4.2 Landholders, NRM groups and community environmental organisations		
<p>Implement a Biodiversity Incentive Scheme which supports landholders in protecting Local Natural Areas (LNAs) outside Shire reserves through voluntary initiatives such as provision of subsidised fencing of remnant vegetation, weed control and developing property-scale biodiversity management plans.</p>		
<p>Work in partnership with NRM groups, environmental organisations, and industry to deliver regional, cross-tenure initiatives that address key biodiversity threats and support high-value conservation areas, such as the Arum Lily Blitz, strategic feral animal control programs, and sustainable wine growing and agriculture initiatives.</p>		
<p>Continue to provide environmental grants programs, including the Environmental Management Fund, Community Partnerships Grants, and Environmental Stewardship Grants, that support community groups in implementing local initiatives that protect, enhance and promote biodiversity. Update the Shire's Grant guidelines to better directly support landholder priority environmental projects</p>	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
<p>To ensure maximum reach, communicate partnership and grant opportunities to the community through a range of channels, including Biodiversity Information Packs, social media, website updates, local newspapers, the Shire's E-newsletter (The Leeuwin Current), rates notices, and through NRM networks.</p>		

4.3 Friends of Reserves

Continue to support, coordinate and build the capacity of Friends of Reserve groups for key Shire reserves, and celebrate their achievements.

Establish a Friends of Reserves Volunteer Manual that identifies Workplace Health and Safety requirements, procedures and controls for environmental activities undertaken by Volunteers.

Ongoing

2026-2027

Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

Corporate and Customer Services

4.4 Tourism

Continue to demonstrate the Shire's commitment to best practice environmental management and sustainability by maintaining and building upon the Shire's ECO Destination Certification, and increasing the visibility of ECO Destination Certification in the media.

Work with our tourism partners to consider, develop and seek resources for initiatives that encourage visitor contributions and involvement in local biodiversity projects.

Ongoing

Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

Sustainable Economy and Communities

4.5 Strategic partnerships

Continue to collaborate with cultural custodians, stakeholders, and the community to implement regional and strategic plans that support biodiversity protection, such as the Wooditjup Bilya Protection Strategy, Taalup Boya Healthy Country Plan, South West Tourism Destination Management Plan, River Action Plans, key Shire planning documents, the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park Management Plan, and Gondwana Link initiatives.

Work with our partners including Cultural Custodians, DBCA, NRM groups, and research institutions, to monitor and improve our understanding of the effects of a drying climate on local species, habitats and ecological communities, and develop initiatives for improving long-term resiliency of LNAs.

Support the establishment and future expansion of the Margaret River Community Landcare Nursery and continue to support the ongoing operation and growth of the Augusta Community Landcare Nursery.

Ongoing

All Directorates

4.6 Opportunities for advocacy

Work with Council's Advocacy Committee on important biodiversity advocacy initiatives, including:

- Inclusion of Arum Lily as a nationally significant weed under the National Environmental Weed Priority (NEWP) initiative.
- Seeking additional support from State government on biosecurity in the region, including pest, weed and feral animal control.
- Improved resourcing by the State Government for the protection and management of Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park.

Ongoing

Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

5

Focus: Foster Community Understanding, Respect and Stewardship for the Environment

Objective: Provide education and engagement opportunities for the community to foster a sense of environmental awareness, stewardship and respect.

5.1 Biodiversity information packs

Timeframe

Directorate

In collaboration with our stakeholders, develop and make widely available a series of Biodiversity Information Packs, targeting new and established residents, landowners, and visitors to the region, that provide local biodiversity information and guidance on protecting biodiversity, including available resources, funding programs. and opportunities for involvement.

2026-2027

All Directorates

5.2 Awareness raising and education

Recognise the achievements and contributions of Friends of Reserves, NRM, and community groups through regular and improved media and communications, and volunteer events and awards programs.

Ongoing

Update and improve environmental information on the Shire's website including links to relevant documents and resources.

2026-2027

Develop and promote flora and fauna emblems for the Shire.

2026-2027

Prepare public fact sheets and guidance information on the legislative responsibilities around native vegetation clearing, and protection of native fauna.

2026-2027

Install demonstration gardens in key locations to educate and encourage households to transition to using more drought tolerant, fire wise and water sensitive local native species in their gardens and verges.

2026-2027

Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
Corporate and Customer Services

5.3 Youth

Continue to support and partner with NRM groups and local schools to implement biodiversity initiatives and foster environmental stewardship in schools.	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
Seek opportunities to engage and collaborate with local youth on initiatives that involve the protection of biodiversity, including bushland restoration programs in key Shire-managed reserves.		

5.4 Water resource protection

Work with Water Corporation on local waterwise initiatives to educate and promote ways for residents to be more water efficient in their homes and gardens.	Ongoing	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
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Focus: Mainstream Biodiversity in Shire Operations and Decision Making

6

Objective: Incorporate biodiversity protection principles in all levels of Shire decision-making and operations.

6.1 Funding and Resourcing

Timeframe

Directorate

Assess resource and staffing requirements to adequately fund and resource the implementation of this Action Plan, and where required link actions to the Long-Term Financial Plan and Workforce Plan.	2026-2036	All Directorates
Support community and partner organisations to identify, apply for, and secure grant funding for projects that protect and enhance local biodiversity.	Ongoing	

6.2 Governance

Biennially

2030

Ongoing

Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

Undertake biennial (2-yearly) reviews of the LBS and consider additional actions for inclusion in the Action Plan, if required.	Biennially	Sustainable Development and Infrastructure
After five years, determine whether the LBS is still fit for purpose for the next five years or whether it should be revised and a new LBS developed.	2030	
Investigate aligning biodiversity management with national and global targets and initiatives (Australia has adopted the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Australia's Strategy for Nature), including how the Council can translate these initiatives into local actions. Keep up to date with new initiatives such as Natural Capital Accounting which values biodiversity in decision making and the Nature Repair Market for potential opportunities in nature repair projects.	Ongoing	

6.3 A plant local first approach

Implement a Shire-wide Plant Local First Approach, which considers the following:

- Prioritising the use of local native plants in Shire landscaping.
- Establishing local native verge demonstration gardens in suitably located public areas.
- Continuing the collection of local provenance native seed for use in revegetation projects.
- Developing education resources and incentives for landholders to use local native species in their gardens such as sample seedling giveaways, and running workshops on creating a native garden and encouraging native wildlife to your garden etc.
- Develop Landscaping Guidelines for new subdivisions, including recommended local native species lists.

2026-2036

Sustainable Development and Infrastructure

6.4 Shire processes and training

Develop and implement introductory biodiversity training for Shire staff.

2026-2027

Develop a biodiversity checklist for inclusion in Scope of Works documents for Shire capital construction projects, and Work Orders for operational maintenance activities.

Develop and implement best practice weed, pest and disease hygiene management procedures for staff and contractors involved in off-road and ground-moving activities.

Develop an environmental induction procedure for relevant contractors engaged by the Shire.

All Directorates

6.5 Environmental compliance

Improve the Shire's capacity in compliance on environmental matters by assessing resource and staffing requirements.

2026-2028

Continue to investigate environmental compliance matters, such as illegal clearing and encroachments onto Shire reserves.

Ongoing

Continue to implement the Shire's Erosion and Sediment Local Law by:

- Engaging with local builders to raise awareness about their responsibilities to manage sediment and runoff on building and development sites.
- Undertaking inspections and compliance actions for building and development sites prior to winter.

All Directorates



Photo credit: Kay Lehman

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Action plan continuous review and improvement

Photo credit: Kay Lehman

10 ACTION PLAN CONTINUOUS REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT

A program of continuous improvement and review will be implemented to ensure that the LBS action plan is being implemented, and that it remains current and fit for purpose. This will include:

- Biennial (every two years) review of the LBS to recommend updates and improvements for the action plan.
- Updating the LBS where the review recommends changes and/or where annual reporting indicates that the progress of actions is not satisfactory.
- Inclusion of additional actions where they are deemed to meet the intent and direction of the LBS.

In 2030, a review of the LBS will be undertaken to determine whether the LBS is still fit for purpose for the next five years, or whether it should be fully revised, and a new LBS developed.



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