



CLIMATE
ACTION
Augusta Margaret River

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

2020 STATUS UPDATE

PROJECT WELL UNDERWAY

Revegetate riparian zones, buffers, shelter belts, corridors, catchments, parks

Support agricultural transition to more sustainable practice

Incorporate sustainability planning regulations into the Local Planning Scheme

Develop and promote programs to think local, buy local, swap, share and exchange

PROJECT COMMENCED WITH INITIAL PROGRESS

Assist Augusta Margaret River Clean Community Energy group to develop a major community renewable energy project

Coordinate, champion and implement the AMR Climate Action Plan

Lobby for change at the state and federal political level

PROJECT STILL IN PLANNING

Develop a community renewable energy power sharing system

Support the development of new, sustainable and local industries

Support transition to electric vehicles

PROJECT NOT YET FEASIBLE

Provide low carbon public, tourist and school transport

A photograph of various green plants in pots and trays, overlaid with a teal banner containing the text "PROJECTS WELL UNDERWAY". The plants include tall grasses in a tray on the left, and several potted plants with broad leaves in the center and right. The background shows a wooden structure and more foliage.

PROJECTS WELL UNDERWAY

KEY PROJECT PARTNERS



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ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Nature Conservation Margaret River Region have planted 14,680 native seedlings including 11,530 as part of a Western Ringtail Possum habitat enhancement project (undertaken in conjunction with South West Catchment Council), 2260 at various foreshore, bushland and coastal sites with local primary school students, and 890 on Augusta Margaret River Shire reserves.
- ◆ 450 native seedlings were planted on Yalgardup Brook as an offset for the 2019 Climate Summit event.
- ◆ Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee (LCDC) have undertaken riparian fencing and revegetation through a Regional Estuaries Initiative project, resulting in 14ha of riparian revegetation and 38km of stock exclusion fencing in the catchment.
- ◆ MRBTA have established revegetation plans and planted 1500 native seedlings at its sites across the region.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Nature Conservation Margaret River Region announced significant funding agreements with the Wright Burt Foundation and LINE IN THE SAND. The Wright Burt Foundation's contribution goes to underpin core operations, while Line in the Sand is partnering with Nature Conservation Margaret River Region on a range of coastal programs.
- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire continues to fund community based revegetation projects through its Environmental Management Fund.
- ◆ Nature Conservation Margaret River Region has secured State NRM funding for a For Nature Landowner Stewardship Program which will assist landowners to undertake conservation action including revegetation with local native species.
- ◆ Lower Blackwood LCDC will continue to deliver riparian fencing and revegetation from 2021-2024 through Healthy Estuaries WA, undertaken in partnership with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

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ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Lower Blackwood LCDC undertook a Regenerative Agriculture in Practice - Adapting for a Changing Climate project throughout 2020. This project was aimed at increasing awareness, knowledge and understanding, access to advice and adoption of regenerative agriculture techniques by farmers in the Lower Blackwood Catchment.
- ◆ Lower Blackwood LCDC have also developed a Regen Ag 'Info Hub' on their website. The Hub consists of Guides and reading on the topics of soil health, pasture biodiversity, regen grazing and regen ag, water health, stock health, bio-stimulants, weeds and ferals, farmer profiles and case studies, podcasts and webinars.
- ◆ The Landsmith Collection (which includes Voyager Estate) hosted a free Field Day in November 2019 for around 70+ community members interested in starting on a regenerative farming journey.
- ◆ AMRCCE has now completed its Z-Filter on-farm trial with funding from the State Government's Regional Estuaries Initiative through the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. The trial was assessed whether it was possible, both practically and economically, for farmers to separate the effluent into reusable liquid filtrate (water) and stackable manure solids.
- ◆ Margaret River Wine Association formed a Sustainability Sub-Committee and have now developed a Sustainability Action Plan.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Lower Blackwood LCDC and Margaret River Wine Association have signed an MOU to work together on sustainability initiatives.
- ◆ Lower Blackwood LCDC have received funding from the Augusta Margaret River Shire to undertake a Regenerative Agriculture in Practice - 'Building Resilience' project throughout 2021. The project will see continuation and further development of its Regenerative Grazing program with an additional focus on building soil health and resilience.
- ◆ Margaret River Wine Association will hold workshops for its members on Biodiversity, Soil and other Sustainability topics throughout 2021.
- ◆ Margaret River Wine Association has received a \$42k grant from the AMR Shire to support Sustainability Plans in 2021 and employ a Sustainability Engagement Officer for the next 12 months to assist members in the Shire to join the Sustainable Winegrowing Australia program.
- ◆ 21 wine producers in the region have now gained organic certification for some or all of their vineyards.
- ◆ AMRCCE's Z-Filter on-farm trial was very successful. The results showed that the Z-Filter very effectively separated the solids and liquid (filtrate) components of the effluent allowing the farmer to reuse the filtrate with onsite bore water and to irrigate over large existing irrigation areas using existing irrigation equipment directly offsetting synthetic fertiliser use, with anticipated savings benefit. It also provided the farmer with separated Filter Cake to apply to the land boosting of soil productivity in previously underperforming areas.

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ACTIVITIES

◆ The Local Planning Strategy and Scheme are currently undergoing major updates with a strong focus on sustainability.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ Public consultation on the Draft Local Planning Strategy occurred late last year with consultation on the Draft Scheme occurring this year.

KEY PROJECT PARTNERS



**TRANSITION
Margaret River**

**MARGARET RIVER
BUSSELTON
TOURISM
ASSOCIATION**

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ACTIVITIES

- ◆ A major initiative to promote participation in the local economy was launched through the LOCAL-IS-More Campaign. The launch was supported by a number of promotion and education initiatives including events, website, social media, special local offer, window decals and a support local pledge.
- ◆ Live Local Month saw over 35 events take place throughout November 2020, including the Margaret River Farmers Markets and Town Square Markets, as well as feature events including the Live Local Night Market, the Festival of Forgotten Skills, Produce Swap Shuffle Share, Undalup Bush Tucker Workshop and Intercultural Morning Tea.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ A pledge to encourage locals to choose, think and support local first is available on the LOCAL-IS-More website.
- ◆ MRBTA stocks the retail products of 55 local suppliers at its sites across the region including support for Owl Friendly Margaret River, the Western Ringtail Possum Action Group and the Friends of the Cape to Cape Track.

A large group of people, mostly middle-aged and older, are seated at long tables in a bright, modern room. They are engaged in a meeting or workshop, with some looking at papers and others talking. The room has large windows, hanging plants, and modern lighting. A blue banner with white text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

PROJECT COMMENCED WITH INITIAL PROGRESS

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ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Clean Community Energy (AMRCCE) has been working on a feasibility study and gaining approvals for a 10MW Grid Connected windfarm in the Scott River. AMRCCE aims to find a suitable partner to develop / operate the wind farm whilst securing a community shareholding to fund ongoing projects to reduce community emissions.
- ◆ PROGRESS TO DATE:
 - Optional locations identified within 3 km of Beenup substation
 - Access Agreements obtained
 - Modelling undertaken with publicly available and gifted wind data
 - Onsite wind monitoring completed
 - Western Power Connection Application commenced
 - Potential finance opportunities explored
 - Conceptual Development Application underway
 - Wind data analysed and advice on turbine specifications received

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire has allocated \$30,000 in support of AMRCCE for FY21.
- ◆ AMRCCE is now a Registered Charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status which enables it to provide tax deductibility to donations towards its activities.



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ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Climate Action Augusta Margaret River continues to monitor, promote and facilitate progress of the community projects identified as an outcome of the Climate Action Summit.
- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire's draft Climate Action Plan was released for review in 2020.
- ◆ MRBTA has partnered with UWA on a climate change research project involving the monitoring of Karri Trees.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ In August 2020, Augusta Margaret River Shire Council endorsed the Corporate Business Plan 2020-2024 which included a series of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Chief Executive Officer. One of the KPIs was *"Maintain the Shire as a leader in climate change mitigation and adaptation improving our scores across the ten WALGA climate excellence categories"*.
- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire will sponsor a PhD student through Edith Cowan University South West to undertake three years research on climate action and adaptation and report on opportunities for mainstreaming responses to climate change across the Shire.
- ◆ The Climate Action Summit was awarded Runner Up for Australasian Project of the Year and Winner in the Environment Category at the 2020 International Association for Public Participation Core Value Awards.
- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire has installed 20kW solar at the Margaret River depot.
- ◆ MRBTA has installed solar power at Margaret River Visitor Centre and Lake Cave.

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ACTIVITIES

- ◆ WA Forest Alliance 'Forests for Climate, Forests for Life' campaign was launched and a Forest Rally held in Margaret River in August 2020.
- ◆ A letter writing workshop was hosted by Margaret River Regional Environment Centre.
- ◆ The Nannas for Native Forests group was launched including mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers from all walks of life and all political persuasions, who share a deep concern for the well-being of future generations.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ On 9th September 2020 AMR Shire Council endorsed the following five Forest for Climate actions:
 - Immediately protect mature native forests as biodiverse carbon stores
 - Protect degraded forests as Future Forests and allow them to recover their full biological potential
 - Complete the transition of the timber industry to sustainably managed plantations and farm forestry
 - Develop a targeted, strategic approach to fire management with guidance from Noongar fire practitioners and ecologists
 - Rule out native forest bioenergy
- ◆ The following three major aims of Forests for Life:
 - To protect forests from threatening processes
 - To develop a world-class farm forestry sector in south-west Western Australia; and
 - To meaningfully account for the critical role forests play in the mitigation of, and adaptation to climate change
- ◆ It was also endorsed that the CEO write to the Premier, Opposition Leader, relevant ministers and local Members of Parliament to express Council's position.



PROJECTS STILL IN PLANNING

KEY PROJECT PARTNERS



PROJECT STILL IN PLANNING

Develop a community renewable energy power sharing system

Support the development of new, sustainable and local industries

Support transition to electric vehicles

ACTIVITIES

- ◆ AMRCCE has been investigating and evaluating the establishment of a community retail partnership with suitable partner(s).
- ◆ Support for a local revolving fund has been obtained from Corena (corenafund.org.au) who have provided AMRCCE access to policies and processes from their funding model.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ AMRCCE has entered into an Energy Marketing and Management Agreement with Clear Energy Pty Ltd to deliver reliable, affordable and clean energy to the community of Augusta Margaret River. The agreement signed on 19 March 2021 aims to deliver more than 20MW of renewable generation capacity within five years reducing emissions by in excess of 12,500 tonnes CO₂/year. Besides cleaner and more affordable energy the agreement will result in local employment generation and revenue retention for investment in the local community.
- ◆ AMRCCE was successful in the Shire's Community Resilience grants and obtained a \$50,000 loan (non-recourse) to provide seed funding and \$15,000 funding to improve their website to support a revolving fund which makes interest free loans to community groups for emissions reduction projects.
- ◆ The AMRCCE Revolving Fund is expected to be in operation by the end of the 2020/21 financial year.

KEY PROJECT PARTNERS



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ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire is in the process of drafting a Sustainable Economy Strategy which will be supported by a Sustainable Economy Grants scheme.
- ◆ Ecotourism Australia's Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference was held in Margaret River in December 2020.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire's economic stimulus grants supported businesses focused on plastic recycling, eco-tourism and primary producer marketing.
- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire and MRBTA have sought ECO Destination Certification through Ecotourism Australia. The Certification approves destinations committed to sustainable practices and to quality, nature-based tourism experiences.
- ◆ Currently 12 tourism businesses in the Shire have had their sustainable credentials certified by either Ecotourism Australia or Tourism Council WA, including MRBTA-managed attractions. In February 2021 MRBTA and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River launched a program to support 10 new businesses to gain ECO Certification with Ecotourism Australia.
- ◆ Development of a Sustainable Industries Cluster is scheduled for 2021.



KEY PROJECT PARTNERS



MARGARET RIVER
BUSSELTON
TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

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Support transition to electric vehicles

ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire continues to investigate transition of shire fleet to electric vehicles.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ Augusta Margaret River Shire has purchased a number of hybrid and plug in hybrid vehicles and recently purchased 2 electric bikes.
- ◆ MRBTA has 8 hybrid vehicles in use across the organisation.

An aerial, black and white photograph of a beach. The image shows the ocean waves breaking onto the shore, with white foam visible as the water meets the sand. The waves are moving from the top right towards the bottom left. The sand is a light gray, and the water is a darker gray. The overall texture is dynamic and somewhat chaotic due to the movement of the water.

PROJECT NOT YET FEASIBLE

PROJECT NOT YET FEASIBLE

Provide low carbon public,
tourist and school transport

COMMENTS

- ◆ There are currently issues with commercial viability for this project.
- ◆ Expecting significant price reductions over the next few years and potentially some state government initiatives to address this.



Climate Action Augusta Margaret River would like to acknowledge that we operate on the country of the Wadandi and Pibelmen people, and recognise their ancestors and descendants as the traditional owners of this country. We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded and that this always was and always will be Aboriginal land.