



Giant Light Steps Charter

17.05.2018

1. Preamble

Throughout the Margaret River region's community, there is growing recognition that our outstanding natural environment is not only of intrinsic importance but that our coastal, river and forest landscapes, our biodiversity, and our 'clean green' image underpin our lifestyles and livelihoods. We also recognise that the combination of pressures including population and visitation growth, dieback, weeds, feral animals, bushfires and diminishing stream flows, exacerbated by climate change, has the potential to devastate our geographically-restricted, complex and fragile environmental systems.

To ensure environmental sustainability and future prosperity, based on our "clean green" image, it is crucial that our economic and community sectors come together to collectively address our environmental impacts and to build a conservation culture within the broad community to tackle landscape-wide environmental issues together.

Giant Light Steps (GLS) has been initiated to form a conservation stewardship alliance that brings together community, government and local industry including: tourism, viticulture, horticulture, agriculture, commerce, industry, local and state government and the wider community, supported by Nature Conservation Margaret River Region, to lead this cultural change and drive concerted action to better manage the threats to our environment.

2. Objectives

Giant Light Steps (GLS) is an alliance of economic sector and community groups committed to taking individual and joint action to maintain and enhance the natural environment of the Margaret River region, motivated by the objectives of:

- fulfilling our custodial responsibilities for our environment as a legacy to the future;
- providing integrity to substantiate the 'clean green' reputation underpinning the social and economic well-being of the region.

3. Scope

3.1 Founding Membership

Founding members of the Giant Light Steps initiative are; Nature Conservation Margaret River Region, Margaret River Busselton Tourism Association, Margaret River Wine Association, Margaret River Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Augusta Margaret River Shire Council, South West Catchments Council and Transition Margaret River. This charter was developed and agreed to by each member to define our purpose.

3.2 Activities

The GLS stewardship alliance seeks to identify, uphold and extend already-established goals and good practices through collaboration within and between sectors in the Margaret River region. This will include:

- enhancing the understanding of local natural values, opportunities for managing impacts and potential to build on strengths;
- developing capacity for maintaining the region's 'green integrity' credentials and provide a basis for community, government and businesses to promote this to their clients and customers;
- creating or adapting processes and structures to integrate environmental best practice into all aspects of business and living;
- engaging and empowering stakeholders in a meaningful, inclusive way;
- strengthening enabling conditions by adopting and/or adapting effective policies and regulations;
- identifying and capitalising on opportunities for alliance sectors to partner to create synergies and joint projects to meet the GLS overall objectives and targets developed through the alliance;
- introducing mechanisms for delivery of GLS programs and projects over time;
- improving monitoring and reporting capacity;
- demonstrating results and progress in a transparent and credible way.

3.3 Location

The geographical scope of GLS is the Margaret River region as roughly delineated by the catchments of the Margaret River and other smaller waterways of the coastline from Cape Naturaliste to Cape Leeuwin, with potential to extend by agreement with members.

4. Membership

Members of GLS are to be peak sector bodies with the capacity to develop and deliver tangible and measurable actions that will maintain and enhance the region's natural values.

- Membership is open to any representative body which shares the GLS objectives
- A peak sector body that wants to become a member must apply in writing to the GLS Committee.
- The Committee will consider each application for membership through centralised email correspondence within one month of receipt.

- A member may resign from membership of the GLS Committee by giving written notice to the Chair.
- The GLS Committee may expel an organisation from membership in writing if the member acts detrimentally to the interests of the GLS Committee or contravenes any of the guidelines in this charter.

5. Role of the GLS alliance

The role of GLS as an entity is to:

- build on the Margaret River region's strengths and champion environmental stewardship as a core economic and lifestyle responsibility and benefit;
- facilitate key economic sectors of tourism, wine, agriculture, commerce and government, and the wider community, to come together to individually and cooperatively address priority conservation and sustainability issues relating to the impacts of their activities;
- support members to develop and implement programs of tangible and measurable actions that will maintain and enhance the region's natural capital that underpins the region's conservation value, economy and lifestyles;
- seek financial support through grants and other initiatives for alliance, cooperative and individual members to deliver environmental and resource management programs;
- extend membership to include other organisations endorsed by the alliance as peak sector bodies with the commitment and capability of furthering the objectives of GLS;
- promote recognition for alliance, community and participant organisations' successful conservation efforts.

6. Role of members

The role of GLS members is to:

- through the alliance, individually and cooperatively address priority conservation and sustainability issues relating to the impacts of their activities;
- develop, commit to and then deliver action programs with tangible, measurable and auditable targets that will maintain and enhance the region's natural capital that underpins our conservation value, economy and lifestyles.

7. Authority and governance

The GLS membership is comprised of the foundation members listed in section 3.1 plus additional organisations agreed by the membership from time to time.

GLS functions as a Committee of the Board of Nature Conservation Margaret River Region Inc., with governance oversight and administration provided by Nature Conservation's Board of Management, and powers and responsibilities devolved under Nature Conservation's constitution.

GLS in functioning as a Committee of Nature Conservation has as its membership a senior representative nominated by each of the GLS member organisations, with provision for proxies to attend in their stead.

The Committee is chaired by a member of the Board of Nature Conservation, who also serves as Nature Conservation's representative on the Committee (the Chair).

The GLS membership has the option of establishing other committee positions from its membership from time to time, such as that of Deputy Chair.

Should funding allow, employees and contractors for GLS will be employed through Nature Conservation and report directly to the Chair of GLS.

The GLS Committee is to meet at least twice annually, with Minutes taken and ratified.

The Committee will decide from time to time operational details such as delegation of responsibilities to individuals and sub-committees, with substantive decisions requiring majority endorsement and ratification by the Chair as representative of the Nature Conservation Board.

Agreement on substantive actions to be taken in the name of GLS by the Committee and/or its member groups require GLS Committee endorsement and ratification by the Chair as representative of the Nature Conservation Board.

However, in general the Chair as a Board member of Nature Conservation has the authority to represent GLS to the wider community, as do member organisations with respect to their involvement.

The GLS Committee is to review and if required, recommend changes to this charter once every two years or on an as needs basis. This role may be delegated to a sub-committee with recommended changes presented to the full committee. Changes to the charter are required to be accepted by the majority of the committee and ratified by the Chair.

Augusta Margaret River Shire Council agrees to be a founding member of Giant Light Steps and agrees to operate within the guidelines of this charter.

Pam Townsend, Shire President, Augusta Margaret River Shire Council

Signature

Date