

Annual Report

Environmental Sustainability Strategy
2024 - 2025





The Shire of Murray acknowledges the traditional lands of the Bindjareb and Wilman Noongar people. We pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



Annual Report

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About this

Annual Report

The Shire's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024 - 2034 is a ten-year blueprint to guide Murray and its community toward a more sustainable future. This plan defines Council's environmental goals and presents actionable steps to achieve them within the next decade.

The strategy identifies six focus areas that align with the Council's environmental priorities, including:



Energy and climate action



Sustainable management of water



Sustainable management of waste



Conservation of biodiversity



Sustainable community



Internal governance

This Annual Report documents the Shire of Murray's progress in delivering these actions and advancing the focus areas between February 2024 and February 2025.

"To communicate the importance of the intrinsic connection between the environment, society and the economy, with environmental considerations at the forefront of all Council decisions." – Our vision



Action 6.1 requires the Shire of Murray to produce an Annual Report on the progress of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy actions that is made available to the public.

About the Murray region

The Shire of Murray's environment is diverse, from its forests and bushland to its waterways and urban environments. The natural environment sustains all life - it provides access to clean water, air and food and it also underpins our economy and the liveability of our Shire.

Most of the Shire of Murray lies within the Peel-Harvey catchment on the Swan Coastal Plain and is largely used for agriculture. The eastern portion of the Shire is made up of the granitic and sedimentary outcrops of the Darling Scarp, an area heavily exploited by forestry and mining industries. The Swan Coastal Plain has been significantly cleared, modified and drained, with less than 20% of the natural vegetation remaining today.

Two major waterways that dissect the region: The Serpentine and Murray rivers. These large rivers flow down from the Scarp, into smaller tributaries and wetlands before reaching the Peel-Harvey Estuary. Historically, majority of the western side of the Shire was seasonally inundated palusplain.

Situated 266m above sea level on the Darling Scarp, lies the unique northern Jarrah Forest of the south-west. These forest and woodland ecosystems have evolved over millions of years and are renowned for their high biodiversity and species richness. The Jarrah Forest

provides recreational, cultural and socio-economic benefits to the Shire of Murray, with the local and regional communities placing a very high value on this incredibly unique ecosystem.

There are several significant threatened ecological communities (TEC) recorded in the region that are identified as being subject to processes that threaten to significantly modify or destroy them across their range, with most of these communities either naturally restricted in distribution or have now been significantly cleared. Threatened ecological communities in Murray include Marri – Grass Tree, Banksia Woodland and Temperate and Subtropical Coastal saltmarsh.

Protecting and maintaining our natural environment is essential if we wish to continue to support the liveability and prosperity of Murray. We do, however, face many environmental challenges, whether these be to our natural areas from past and current use, or from the global threat of climate change. These challenges will invariably continue as our population grows.



1,821 km²
Land area



2
Rivers



Important
wetlands



Bindjareb Boodja
"Swamp Country"



19,637
Population



3
Reservoirs



Ramsar listed
Peel-Harvey
catchment



Northern
Jarrah Forest



Our key

Achievements



“To provide leadership in an innovative, efficient and reliable manner to enhance our environment and community wellbeing while assisting the community to be more aware of the changes they can make to help protect the environment.” – Our mission



10-year Waterwise Council

The Shire of Murray was endorsed as a 10-year Waterwise Council. First recognised as a Waterwise Council since 2020 with a Gold Waterwise Aquatic Centre.

Being a Waterwise Council means the Shire creates cool, liveable, green and sustainable places where people want to live, work and spend their time. Along with a best-practice waterwise verge policy, a dedicated water management team and a sustainable waterwise-endorsed aquatic centre. Waterwise communities provide healthy, natural environments that support a range of social, ecological and economic benefits.

The Shire runs annual programs including the Waterwise 'Adopt a Verge' program, which encourages residents to establish waterwise verge gardens offering rebates for doing so. Along with Waterwise plant giveaways to encourage residents to use Waterwise plants in their gardens, free of charge



Corio Road Waste Transfer Station

Waste management is an important service for a local government and with works completed, dropping off waste is now easier than ever with the installation of a moving floor and compactor at the Corio Road Transfer Station. As well as being more convenient and user friendly for residents, it dramatically reduces transport costs for the Shire as compacted waste can be transported more efficiently.



Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan

The Shire of Murray considers the management of the estuarine and riverine areas and foreshore reserves throughout the region, and the mitigation of the coastal hazard risk posed to the community, as integral to Murray's ongoing and future success. Erosion and inundation are an increasing risk for the Shire of Murray. To best protect the community the Shire's Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) was adopted by Council in June 2024.



Riverbank restoration

Riverbank restoration was completed in March, in a bid to stabilize shorelines and prevent ongoing erosion at Cooleenup Island and Yunderup Island. The activity was part of the Shire's commitment to ensure Murray's ecosystem is managed sustainably for the benefit of current and future generations.

The areas selected for treatment are at a higher risk of erosion due to boat wash and tidal influences, making this restoration particularly critical. The riverbank had sharp scarping, which is when the water erodes a slope into the shore. To address this, the Shire of Murray team joined forces with the Bindjareb Rangers and engineering consultants Syrnix to install brush wall, which acts as a temporary barrier when laid across the sand. At the same time, the team installed native sedge and upland seedlings. These will eventually grow large enough and bind sand to further strengthen the riverbank behind the brush – allowing for long term protection from erosion.

Tidy Towns State Category Winner 2024 – Environmental Sustainability

In November 2024, Planning and Sustainability Director Rod Peake and Environmental Officer Tasmin Lancaster attended the Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Towns Awards at Optus Stadium, Perth. The Shire of Murray entered their riverbank restoration works into the Environmental Sustainability category and came home with a win! This award recognises achievements in adaptation to environmental change with one project focusing on the preservation of natural environment, water conservation and energy efficiency.

Thank you to Keep Australia Beautiful Council for acknowledging the hard work and dedication of our Environment team and partners to ensure our natural areas are protected and maintained for generations to come. This is the second time the Shire has been a finalist in the awards for this project.



Schools Tree Day

The 2024 School's Tree Day event was held in a Shire reserve located next to the Murray River in Pinjarra. With the help of 274 students from North Dandalup Primary, John Tonkin College, St Joseph's Primary and Carcoola Primary, 20 teachers and many parent volunteers we were able to plant out 1200 seedlings. These plants will contribute to the biodiversity of the area and assist in strengthening the riverbanks in an area that was previously dominated by weeds.



North Pinjarra Path

Cycling and walking is now easier with an upgrade of this popular 3km path that links North Pinjarra to Pinjarra. A wider footpath (2.5m) and new asphalt surface has improved pedestrian and bike rider experiences. Stage one of the path was completed in December 2024 starting from the pedestrian bridge at Cornish Gully to South-western Highway for approximately 750 metres. Construction of Stage two began in February 2025.

Waterwise Native Plant Giveaway

In June 2024 the Shire held its first Waterwise Native Plant Giveaway partly funded through the Water Corporation Urban Greening Scheme. A total of 76 households registered for the event with 882 free seedlings given away on the day!

The giveaway provided residents with the opportunity to increase local native vegetation cover and biodiversity on private property. Native plants are ideal for WA gardens as they establish quickly, provide valuable food and habitat for local species, and once established consume much less water than non-native species. Residents on properties less than 2000m² in size were given 8 small shrub seedlings with the option of a small tree seedling while residents on properties over 2000m² received a total of 15 trees and medium shrub seedlings.

Providing residents with seedlings, particularly in areas with rural residential lots, aligns with Objective 4 of the Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy - 'protect and enhance ecological connectivity throughout the Shire'. These linkages assist in the maintenance of species and biodiversity throughout the Shire.

Over the course of 2024 over 330 residents expressed their interest for the 2025 Waterwise Native Plant Giveaway.



Invite Guests Not Pests

Invite Guests Not Pests is a weekly interactive environmental series on the Shire of Murray's social media platforms. With the help of Rewild Perth, the series focuses on providing knowledge to the community on how they can easily transform their home gardens into the best possible environment for local native wildlife through simple changes. As a result, boosting not only rural but urban biodiversity as well.

Through a community-driven voting system on our social media pages, followers can comment to vote for the following week's spotlight creature or 'honoured guest'. This ensures content that's both interactive and tailored to our community's interests. Each post highlights garden features and/or native plant or tree species that help create the perfect habitat for the featured animal of the week.

Clean Up Australia Day

On the 25 February 2025 Shire of Murray and Peel Harvey Catchment Council staff and volunteers participated in a Business Clean Up Australia Day event at Herron Point, Birchmont. Clean Up Australia inspires and mobilises communities to improve and conserve our environment, eliminate litter and end waste.

What was started over thirty years ago, by an "average Australian" who had a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard has now become the nation's largest community-based environmental event. In just a couple of hours, roughly 30 bags of rubbish and waste were removed, leaving the surrounding bush happier, greener and cleaner.

Invite Guests, Not Pests

Shaping urban ecosystems, one guest at a time



Meeting our Actions

“To provide leadership in an innovative, efficient and reliable manner to enhance our environment and community wellbeing while assisting the community to be more aware of the changes they can make to help protect the environment.” – Our mission



Energy and climate action

Council will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help build a climate resilient Shire



Sustainable management of water

Council will sustainably manage water assets to ensure current and future community, environmental and economic needs are met



Sustainable management of waste

Council is committed to becoming a circular economy by reducing the generation of waste to landfill



Conservation of biodiversity

Council will continue to protect and enhance natural areas and help maintain high biodiversity values for future generations



Sustainable community

Council will guide the community in building a resilient and sustainable future



Internal governance

Council is committed to being a resourceful, resilient and accountable organisation that focuses on environmentally sustainability



Energy and climate action

Actions	Measurement	Timeline	Budget	Department	Progress
1.0 Conduct site analysis to identify suitable locations for EV charging stations	Analysis completed	1-2 years	\$10,000	Economic Development	<p>Complete</p> <p>In early 2024, the Shire engaged EVenergi to develop a Public EV Charging Plan (2024-2029) to assess demand and guide investment in EV charging infrastructure for the Murray Region. The Plan focused on fast-charging infrastructure, based on advice from the consulting team that fast chargers align most closely with current market demand for public EV charging. Analysis of EV adoption trends in Western Australia, vehicle ranges (with most EVs able to travel between Perth and the South-West without needing to recharge), travel patterns, and the existing charging network indicated that only 1-2 fast charging stations would be required in the next five years. Pinjarra Town Centre and the Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Centre were identified as recommended locations.</p>
1.1 Advocate for fast-charging stations for electric vehicles in Dwellingup and Pinjarra.	Fast charging stations installed	2-5 years	Internal	Economic Development	<p>Modelling indicated high capital and operational costs associated with fast charging infrastructure with the Shire needing the support of grant funding to offset the costs. The Shire remains committed to its environmental and sustainability goals and continues to advocate and monitor grant funding opportunities.</p>
1.2 Incorporate use of best practice energy efficiency measures for all new Shire facilities.	Extent of measures implemented	1-2 years	Internal	Building and Infrastructure	<p>All new infrastructure built to meet National Construction Code energy efficiency requirements with additional measures installed where funding allows.</p>
1.3 Install renewable energy (solar PV and battery storage) on Shire buildings where feasible	Number of buildings incorporating renewable energy facilities	1-2 years	Dependent on location	Building	<p>Recent construction of Ravenswood Community building incorporated PV and Battery storage system.</p> <p>MALC Manager is currently investigating possibility of additional PV system to add to existing 100Kw system.</p>

1.4	Undertake a business case to convert street lighting lamps to LED	Business case completed	1-2 years	\$10,000	Infrastructure	The Shire will continue to advocate for LED lighting to be utilised on all new street lighting and work with Western Power and Synergy to maximise on street lighting efficiencies. WALGA is working with several Local Governments to consider retrofitting of street lighting networks and the outcome of these interactions will pave a way to progress the transition to LED street lighting in the medium to longer term.
1.5	Consolidate future urban growth toward existing settlements with a structure that encourages active transport modes	Framework adopted	2-5 years	Internal	Planning	This matter is being pursued in the Council draft Local Planning Strategy which will be presented to Council for support to be advertised in May 2025.
1.6	Advocate for progressive improvements in public transport services to key settlements.	Increased public transport options	Ongoing	Internal	Economic Development and Strategic Planning	This matter is being pursued in the Council draft Local Planning Strategy which will be presented to Council for support to be advertised in May 2025.
1.7	Prepare Precinct Structure Plans for key Activity Centres that focus on encouraging increased walkability, cycling and public transport ridership.	Precinct structure plans adopted	Ongoing	Internal	Planning	In December 2024 Council adopted the draft Pinjarra Planning framework which is underpinned by objectives seeking to increase walkability, cycling and public transport ridership.
1.8	Finalise and progressively implement the Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan	Recommendations implemented	Ongoing	Budgeted	Environment	CHRMAP was adopted by Council on the 27 th of June 2024. Successful sourcing for funding for a Foreshore Management Plan at Cooper's Mill.
1.9	Undertake a Shire wide energy audit and develop appropriate benchmark reduction targets.	Audit completed; targets adopted	1-2 years	Budgeted	Environment	Shire wide energy audit completed.
1.10	Prepare environmentally sustainable buildings local planning provisions	Policy adopted	2-5 years	Internal	Planning	In December 2024 Council adopted the draft Pinjarra Precinct Structure Plan which contains environmentally sustainable provisions for buildings.
1.11	Review and progressively implement the Murray Long Term Cycle Network Plan	Plan implemented	Ongoing	Budgeted	Infrastructure	Implementation of the North Pinjarra asphalt path as part of the planned cycle network, with Stage 1 complete 2024, Stage 2 underway almost complete for 3km total.
1.12	Advocate for electric or hydrogen vehicles within the waste collection contract	Extent of advocacy	5-10 years	Contract	Fleet	Current kerbside collection contract expires 30 June 2028. At the time of next tender options for alternative fuel vehicles will be included.



Sustainable management of water

Actions		Measurement	Timeline	Budget	Department	Progress
2.0	Implement water sensitive urban design initiatives in development and capital works projects	Initiatives completed	Ongoing	Internal	Environmental and Infrastructure	Ongoing and implemented via residential & industrial subdivisional development
2.1	Survey & model Pinjarra drainage network to identify opportunities for sustainable upgrades	Surveys completed	5-10 years	Internal	Infrastructure	Not yet commenced
2.2	Advocate for further investment to advance water initiatives to meet the needs of future development and industry	Investment received	Ongoing	Internal	Economic Development and Strategic Planning	<p>The Shire has developed a document through the Peel Development Commission for the Peel region and has met with Water Corporation to appreciate their position and to coordinate a working group that includes DWER to develop a strategy for water options for future development.</p> <p>The Shire is also working with Harvey Water and recently attended a workshop at their offices with Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), Water Corporation and multiple Local Government's looking at the use of non-potable water.</p> <p>The goal this year is to establish a brief to inform a Water Strategy to be completed in the next couple of years.</p>
2.3	Review the Murray District Drainage Strategy and develop a costed works program to improve priority catchments	Program completed	2-5 years	\$20,000	Infrastructure and Environment	Not yet commenced
2.4	Implement and promote the Waterwise Verge Rebate Program	Waterwise verges adopted	Ongoing	\$5000	Environment	<p>Waterwise Verge Rebate Program implemented.</p> <p>A combined total of 40 posts on Shire Facebook and Instagram social medias to promote programs.</p>

2.5	Incorporate use of best practice water efficiency measures across all new Council facilities and progressively upgrade existing facilities	Extent of measures adopted	Ongoing	\$10,000+	Building	<p>All new facilities are built using NCC complaint fittings and fixtures, and provision for third pipe installation where possible. Where replacement fittings and fixtures are installed NCC compliant fittings are installed.</p> <p>Recent construction of Ravenswood Community building incorporated roof water capture and reuse system and ability for future third pipe installations.</p>
2.6	Continue to work with key stakeholders to plan for future water resource outcomes	Water resources secured	Ongoing	Internal	Strategic Planning	Currently working with WALGA to assist in updating their Water Advocacy Position, which will guide future efforts in the water space.
2.7	Undertake a Shire wide water audit and develop appropriate benchmark reduction targets	Audit undertaken, targets adopted	1-2 years	Internal	Environment	Shire wide water audit completed.
2.8	Provide information to the community on water resource management and efficiency in the home	Community reach	Ongoing	Internal	Communications and Environment	More than 40 posts were shared on the Shire's Facebook and Instagram pages combined to inform the community about being waterwise. The Shire Facebook and Instagram pages have a combined following of 11k.





Sustainable management of waste

Actions	Measurement	Timeline	Budget	Department	Progress
3.0 Maintain an alliance with Rivers Regional Subsidiary to manage the waste to energy contract and other waste initiatives	Alliance maintained	Ongoing	Internal	Waste	Alliance maintained through regular meetings and email updates.
3.1 Review Corio Road Transfer Station Infrastructure including investigating battery, tech and other forms of recycling.	Revised plan adopted	Ongoing	Budgeted	Waste	<p>E-waste recycling commenced 1 September 2023 ahead of the e-waste ban to landfill in July 2024 with 29.56t diverted from landfill. Under arrangement with Ecobatt, receptacles are in place for loose batteries along with items which include embedded batteries.</p> <p>All items sent for recycling incur a cost to the Shire, however, opportunities for all types of recycling will be considered to ensure a sustainable environmental impact.</p>
3.2 Implement education programmes including recycling, composting, waste education and partner with local schools and community groups	Community reach	Ongoing	Budgeted	Waste and Communications	<p>We run a regular social media campaign on the Shire's channels for community education on Waste. This includes – composting, recycling, and disposal of hazardous waste. Over the year 35 posts relating to waste were posted on the Shire's Facebook and Instagram social media profiles.</p> <p>We also regularly participate in wider campaigns including Be A Great Sort and Clean Up Australia Day.</p>
3.3 Improve waste management through diversion, reuse and recycling	Per capita reduction achieved	2-5 years	Internal	Waste	<p>Behavioural change is a lengthy and complex process which relies on multi-party input. Requires greater stakeholder commitment – Federal/State Government, product producers.</p> <p>See also comments at 3.6.</p>
3.4 Undertake an assessment of the technical and financial implications of introducing a three bin FOGO system, incorporating the commitment to the Waste to Energy facility	Assessment completed	1-2 years	\$10,000	Environment and Waste	Assessment completed and presented to Council 27 June 2024. Council endorsed retaining the two-bin system in the medium term with a follow up feasibility study in 2027/28 for consideration of a GO or FOGO rollout in 2030.

3.5	Undertake an internal Shire wide waste audit to develop appropriate benchmark reduction targets/diversion, reuse and recycling	Audit completed	5-10 years	Internal	Waste	Not yet commenced.
3.6	Implement actions from the Waste Strategy and Education Plan	Actions implemented	Ongoing	As required	Waste	Social media advertising regularly undertaken to promote correct recycling and disposal of hazardous items. The bin tagging program conducted by Cleanaway promotes correct behaviours and provides feedback to residents through tags placed on their bins.
3.7	Investigate and promote at home and community composting options	Investigation completed and community reach	2-5 years	Internal	Environment and Waste	Not yet commenced.





Conservation of biodiversity

Actions		Measurement	Timeline	Budget	Department	Progress
4.0	Implement the Local Biodiversity Strategy	Actions undertaken	Ongoing	Budgeted	Environment	Ongoing – Strategy scheduled to be updated in 2025/2026 depending on funding availability.
4.1	Support existing and develop new programs to incentivise and facilitate the protection and rehabilitation of natural areas on private land	Hectares protected	Ongoing	\$10,000 with additional funding options	Environment	<p>Waterwise Native Plant Giveaway with 76 participants and 882 free seedlings.</p> <p>335 Expression of interests and 159 registered for the 2025 Giveaway. 2000 free seedlings to be given away on the day.</p>
4.2	Continue to rehabilitate and protect natural areas on public land focusing on key biodiversity targets (i.e. TEC riparian, linkages)	Hectares protected	Ongoing	Budgeted	Environment	<p>Erosion control - rock revetment, brush wall and revegetation at Cooleenup Island (4458 seedlings) and Yunderup Island (1090 seedlings), rock revetment and revegetation at Willow Gardens.</p> <p><u>Collective distance of erosion control:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100m Yunderup Island • 230m Cooleenup Island • 315m Willow Gardens <p>School's Tree Day held by the river in Pinjarra with 274 students and 20 teachers who helped plant 1200 seedlings.</p>
4.3	Advocate to Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions to appropriately classify Old Growth Forest within a protection zone within the review of the Forest Management Plan	Extent of advocacy	1-2 years	Internal	Strategic Planning	<p>The new Forest Management Plan 2024-2033 (FMP 2024-2033) came into effect on 1 January 2024. It did not include Old Growth Forest within a protection zone.</p> <p>Continuing to advocate to have the Dwellingup Discovery Forest formally recognised and protected by the State Government.</p> <p>Council formalised its position that Lane Poole Reserve (or part thereof) to be classified as a National Park at the June 2024 Council meeting. A letter of support to this is imminent from Alcoa and Waroona Council supported the change in classification at their December 2024 meeting. Liaising regularly with senior management at Alcoa to get their support for a proposal to then be</p>

presented to the State Government. CEO has joined the Alcoa Dwellingup Community Consultative Committee.

4.4	Advocate for improved post-mining rehabilitation of the Jarrah Forest	Extent of advocacy	Ongoing	Internal	Strategic Planning	Continuing to Advocate for improved post-mining rehabilitation of the Jarrah Forest
4.5	Prepare and implement Shire of Murray Reserve Management Plans	Plans adopted and actions implemented	Ongoing	\$30,000	Environment	A Reserve Management Plan is currently being prepared for the Reserves that encompass the Coolup Gun Clubs in Coolup. The plan will include actions to improve conservation of the reserve, reduce lead pollution and provide suggestions for potential expansion of the gun clubs.
4.6	Continue to support biosecurity programs managing pest plants and animals, including stray domestic cats.	Programs completed	Ongoing	\$10,000	Environment	<p>Shire Officer participation in Peel-Harvey Biosecurity Group pest plants and animal workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calicivirus workshop in Ravenswood Feb 13th • Calicivirus discussion at Willow Gardens Jan 22nd • Pindone Workshop at PHCC – 12th March • Fox Control Workshop in North Yunderup April 18th <p>Community and Shire assisted rabbit control undertaken at Willow Gardens in March, April, November and December</p> <p>Shire and resident assisted rabbit control undertaken along road reserve in West Pinjarra</p> <p>Site visit to the Murray Delta Islands with Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group to map Cape Tulip as part of the PHBG CRISP program.</p> <p>On site meetings with PHBG regarding rabbit control in the Pinjarra townsite.</p>
4.7	Review the Local Planning Framework to identify opportunities to protect significant trees across the Shire	Framework adopted	1-2 years	\$10,000	Planning	This was included in the draft Local Planning Scheme 6 presented to Council in December 2023. It will be in the new LPS6 which will follow the local planning strategy later in 2025
4.8	Undertake a review of natural vegetation corridors to inform	Review completed	2-5 years	\$10,000	Infrastructure	Partially investigated however greater stakeholder commitment required to progress and implement a green bank strategy. Need

	the development of a Greenbank Protection and Offset Strategy					to review the leadership investment required to drive this project further and where the responsibility resides. Greater engagement with DWER & WALGA is required.
4.9	Investigate the feasibility of a fish ladder at the Pinjarra weir through engagement with relevant stakeholders including Peel-Harvey Catchment Council and Traditional Owners	Investigation completed	2-5 years	\$5,000	Environment and Infrastructure	Not yet completed
4.10	Increase urban canopy through street planting program	Street trees planted	Ongoing	Budgeted	Infrastructure and Environment	Urban Greening Street Tree Grant planting in Ravenswood, South Yunderup and Austin Lakes - 189 street trees planted Successful grant application for Round Three of the Urban Greening Grant to plant a total of up to 200 trees in 2025, including targeted sites, and residents' requests.
4.11	Develop a supporting planning framework to facilitate increased urban tree cover	Framework completed	Ongoing	Internal	Planning	This matter is being pursued in the Council draft Local Planning Strategy which will be presented to Council for support to advertised in May 2025.
4.12	Participate in the WALGA Urban Forest Working Group	Participation	1-2 years	Internal	Planning and Environment	The Shire's Coordinator of Environmental Services has joined the WALGA Urban Forest Working Group.
4.13	Investigate options for fauna corridors as part of road design	Investigation completed	Ongoing	Internal	Infrastructure and Environment	Not yet completed
4.14	Support Peel Harvey Catchment Council programs to assist farmers in adopting sustainable practices and reduce nutrient exports from agriculture in the Peel-Harvey Catchment	Programs supported	Ongoing	Internal	Environment	Information on the 'Healthy Estuaries WA' program that assists in reducing stock access to drains and waterways is permanently located on the Shire website.



Sustainable community

Actions	Measurement	Timeline	Budget	Department	Progress
5.0 Continue to manage and monitor mosquito populations	Mosquito numbers	Ongoing	\$60,000	Health	There were 25 mosquito related posts on the Shire's Facebook providing information on mosquitos and details on when the Mozzie Helicopter will be undertaking treatments. This has been a particularly busy mosquito season, with high tides and hot weather causing very active mosquito breeding, with frequent treatments by helicopter required.
5.1 Support volunteer planting days with a broad cross section of the community including local schools	Events completed	Ongoing	\$10,000	Environment and Community Development	School's Tree Day held by the river in Pinjarra with 274 students and 20 teachers who helped plant 1200 seedlings. Clean Up Australia Day at Morni Kep Park – 15 volunteers collected over 20 bags of rubbish, as well as old piping, discarded wood and a Christmas tree.
5.2 Develop and implement a public Communications Strategy to promote Sustainability	Strategy adopted	2-5 years	Internal	Communications	The Shire of Murray website displays the strategy through the Waste and Environment section. It includes all information for the public on waste, recycling, trees, water, coastal management, plants and wild animals, pest management, and sustainability programs. The website information informs social media campaigns including Invite Guests Not Pests, Being Waterwise, Waste, and Declared Weeds.
5.3 Develop education and behaviour change programs to support local residents and businesses to tackle climate change through clean energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport	Programs adopted	5-10 years	Budgeted	Environment and Communications	Not yet completed
5.4 Support and involve youth representation in community sustainability decision making and implementation	Community reach	2-5 years	Internal	Community Development	Youth forums held annually to engage with young people in the Shire provide an opportunity for youth to be involved in design of programs and activities with a sustainable focus. In 2024 around 60 young people attended the forums. Promotion of Clean up Australia Day to schools and young people.

5.5	Create more access points to natural areas within the Shire	Increased access	5-10 years	Budgeted	Infrastructure, Environment and Community Development	Not yet completed
5.6	Assist the community with future climate-based disaster management	Community reach	5-10 years	Budgeted	Rangers	<p>Local Emergency Management Arrangements have been established including Local Recovery Arrangements, Evacuation and Welfare Arrangements to identify the highest risks to the Murray community such as bushfire, flood and storm and ensure plans are established to prepare for, respond to and recover from these emergencies.</p> <p>A Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan has been established to identify land with higher-than-normal bushfire risk and implement Bushfire Response and Risk Mitigation Treatment Plans to reduce overall risk to the community.</p> <p>Risks from flooding and storms such as coastal erosion have been identified in the CHRMAP and actions created for future management.</p>
5.7	Provide information to the community on ways to reduce living costs and greenhouse gas emissions through building design, retrofits, and behaviour changes	Community reach	Ongoing	Internal	Environment, Communications and Community Development	Social media posts are regularly shared for recognition of specific days that relate to greenhouse gas and living cost reduction. Including Earth Hour, World Water Day, World Environment Day, and Recycling Week.
5.8	Investigate opportunities for sustainable ecotourism	Investigation completed	2-5 years	Budgeted	Economic development	Ongoing - Sustainable ecotourism remains a key focus. We continue to foster initiatives that support sustainable tourism growth in the region, including the ongoing sustainable management of trails in Dwellingup to enhance visitor experiences while preserving the natural environment
5.9	Promote environmentally significant events (local, state, national and global)	Community reach	Ongoing	Internal	Communications	The Shire regularly promotes campaigns such as: Clean Up Australia Day, World Water Day, World Environment Day, Earth Hour, World Wetlands Day, Parks Week, World Wildlife Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, Schools Tree Day, National Tree Day, Keep Australia Beautiful Week, Landcare Week, National Threatened Species Day, National Recycling Week, World Fisheries Day.

5.10	Develop a program for formal Shire recognition for organisations that demonstrate innovation to reduce energy use	Program completed	5-10 years	Internal	Environment	Not yet completed
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Internal governance

Actions		Measurement	Timeline	Budget	Department	Progress
6.0	Promote and maintain a culture shift towards including sustainability into decision making at all levels of Local Government and supporting a triple bottom line approach	Approach adopted	Ongoing	Internal	Governance and Environment	Ongoing - 'Planet' is included in Shire's Council Plan.
6.1	Annually monitor and report on the Sustainability Strategy and related outcomes using key performance indicators and make this available to the public	Review completed	Ongoing	Internal	Environment	Completed for 2024/2025
6.2	Promote cross Council collaboration in dealing with climate change	Partnerships developed	1-2 years	Internal	Environment, Planning and Infrastructure	The Environmental team are members of the Western Australian Sustainability and Climate Alliance (WASCA) that allows local governments across WA to share knowledge on dealing with climate change.
6.3	Consider environmental impact in all Council decision making	Best practice adopted	1-2 years	Internal	Governance	Ongoing - 'Planet' is included in Shire's Council Plan.
6.4	Review the Shire's Purchasing Policy to ensure that it incorporates best practice sustainable purchasing initiatives	Review completed	2-5 years	Internal	Governance	The Purchasing Policy prioritises Sustainability included in the objectives of purchasing, value for money considerations and Sustainable procurement practices including the Corporate Social Responsibility to minimise the impact on environment.
6.5	Review the Shire's Light Fleet Purchasing Policy to ensure that it incorporates best practice sustainable purchasing initiatives	Targets adopted	5-10 years	Internal	Fleet and Governance	The policy review schedule is 3-yearly with the next review due June 2025.
6.6	Implement energy and water auditing of Shire facilities including in real-time for major assets	Auditing complete	2-5 years	\$10,000	Environment	Not yet completed
6.7	Participation in WALGA's climate change education course for Elected Members	Course Completed	1-2 years	Internal	Council	Not yet completed
6.8	Encourage and support existing and the establishment of new 'friends of' groups	Groups supported and established	2-5 years	Internal	Environment and Community Development	Community group capacity building workshops held regularly to upskill and support groups. Community Association Partnership Fund provides opportunities for applications for funding for projects that protect the environment.



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