

# Annual Report

Environmental Sustainability Strategy  
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 and December 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 km<sup>2</sup>**  
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*



**170 tonnes**  
of waste diverted from landfill



**222 street trees**  
planted in our neighbourhoods



**13.3 kilolitres**  
of water saved per person



**1 Cockitrough**  
bird watering station installed



**2000 free seedlings**  
given to local residents



**1350 seedlings**  
planted by local schools

## Diverting waste

Waste management is an important service for a local government. Throughout 2025, 6,233 tyres and 2,649 mattresses were recycled and diverted from landfill as well as 36 tonnes of E-waste and 31,950 litres of oil waste.

## Saving water

During the 2024/2025 financial year water usage reduced from 120 kilolitres to 106 kilolitres per capita. That is a saving of 13.3 kilolitres of potable drinking water per person. In addition, the Shire was awarded as a Gold Waterwise Council for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

## Planting Street trees

The Shire was successful in receiving funding as part of Round 3 of WALGA's funding of the Urban Greening Grant. The additional funding allowed the Shire to plant a total of 222 street trees on residential verges, in parks and in public open spaces. To assist in reporting for this funding, the Shire developed a new street tree mapping system that will now allow Officers to see features and monitor the condition of existing street trees as well as provide valuable urban canopy data to WALGA.

## Preparing for PSHB

As part of the Shire's strategy to prepare for the arrival of Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer, our Environmental team have been mapping tree species with a 'Very High' or 'High' susceptibility of infestation. These include species such as London Plane trees, Poinciana and Swamp paperbark. The aim of the mapping system is to be able to quickly and effectively identify areas that may become PSHB 'hot spots' should the borer reach Murray. With quick and efficient management of infested areas, we hope to prevent the spread of the borer to other key areas within the Shire. So far over 340 street trees (including in parks and POS) have been surveyed.

## Bird watering station

Changes in climate and reduced rainfall significantly impacts our local wildlife. Following the Great Cocky Count in 2024, it was reported to the Shire that over 60 Forest Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (listed as Vulnerable under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*) were seen drinking from a muddy puddle near Dwellingup town centre. In 2025 we were able to install our very own bird watering station called a 'Cockitrough' made by the Town of Victoria Park. The Cockitrough, sitting at four metres high, consists of four water troughs with wooden perches around the edges and automatically refills twice a day, keeping the troughs clear of debris and providing a permanent source of fresh water for our local birds. The Cockitrough is located next to the Dwellingup Oval and is in walking distance from the Dwellingup Trails and Visitors Centre.

## Protecting Black Cockatoos

In 2025 the Shire was successfully awarded funding by State NRM: Community Stewardship Grants, to undertake a Black Cockatoo project called 'Wings over Murray: Safeguarding Black Cockatoos in the community'.

Murray is one of the most important areas in the Perth-Peel region for threatened black cockatoos. As land managers and decision makers, the Shire of Murray play a critical role in protecting all three species of threatened black cockatoos. Using tracking and ecological data from Murdoch University, a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) will be produced to develop locally specific, data-informed actions for the Shire to identify areas for habitat retention, revegetation, installation of drinking stations and identifying hot spots for vehicle strike and other threats. The CAP will guide planning decisions and implementation works to safeguard black cockatoos in Murray.





## Conservation Management Plans

The Coolup Gun Club Conservation Management Plan was finalised and adopted by Council in December 2025. The plan includes actions to improve conservation of the reserve, reduce lead pollution and provide suggestions for potential expansion of the gun clubs while conserving the environmental features of the site.

A Foreshore Management Plan and Conservation Strategy for Cooper's Mill have been prepared and are in the final drafting stages. The plan focuses on the heritage values of the Mill as well as the environmental values of the western end of Cooleenup Island. The plan will include actions to protect the existing infrastructure and the surrounding environment from erosion and further degradation.

## Waterwise Native Plant Giveaway

In July 2025 the Shire held its second Waterwise Native Plant Giveaway, partly funded through the Water Corporation Urban Greening Scheme. A total of 159 households registered for the event with 2005 free seedlings given away on the day! Residents on properties zoned Rural Residential were given 16 tree seedlings, while properties zoned Residential were given 8 small shrubs seedlings with the option of an additional small tree seedling.

The giveaway provides 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. Providing residents with seedlings, particularly in areas with rural residential lots, aligns with Objective 4 of the Shire's Local Biodiversity Strategy, providing linkages that assist in the maintenance of species and biodiversity throughout the Shire.



## Cattle farm turned Conservation area

Living on his family's farm his whole life, Ross learnt to appreciate the beauty in nature. What was started by an 'average Australian' who had a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard, Ross has created his very own conservation bushland full of biodiversity that will now be legally protected in perpetuity.

"When I first took over my father's farm, I fenced off the Red Gums and the Jarrah trees with the idea of saving them all... I've done a lot of revegetation over 40 years, so I put a conservation covenant on it so no one could ever touch it, so it's saved. It's my little contribution to the environment," said Ross.

However, it wasn't always this way, "When I was a kid all the bush was trees, shrubs, and Grass trees with some Kingia out there. Farmers, including my dad, let the cows graze and knock down the native vegetation and used the fields to grow hay. This was 70-80 years ago, no one knew in those days, they just cleared the land, made production and made money," added Ross.

But Ross' family retained the mature Marri trees leaving him with the opportunity to fill in the gaps. Ross removed the cattle from the now conservation area and revegetated 10 hectares of land which has created ecological corridors and habitat for native wildlife. This has supported 76 different species of birds (including threatened black cockatoos), bandicoots, echidnas, and the natural emergence of orchids.

Ross had support from Peel Harvey Catchment Council, Coolup Landcare, Birdlife and the Shire of Murray to achieve the highest level of conservation on his private property. The conservation covenant was granted through Heritage Australia in April 2025.



*“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 environmental 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	Complete  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 <b>fast-charging</b> 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.
1.1 Advocate for fast-charging stations for electric vehicles in Dwellingup and Pinjarra.	Fast charging stations installed	2-5 years	Internal	Economic Development	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.
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	Ongoing. All new infrastructure built to meet National Construction Code energy efficiency requirements with additional measures installed where funding allows. There is room for improvement by increasing budgeting for renewable energies for new builds from the beginning.
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	Ongoing.  Solar panels have been installed on the following Council owned buildings: Shire Administration, MALC, Operations Centre, Ravenswood Community Centre and Herron Point Camping Ground.

MALC Manager is investigating possibility of additional PV system to add to existing 100Kw system.

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 is currently with the WAPC for consent to advertise
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 is currently with the WAPC for consent to advertise.
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 July 2025 Council adopted the draft Pinjarra Planning framework which is underpinned by objectives seeking to increase walkability, cycling and public transport ridership. This is currently with the WAPC for final approval.
1.8	Finalise and progressively implement the Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan	Recommendations implemented	Ongoing	Budgeted	Environment	<p>CHRMAP was adopted by Council on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.</p> <p>A Foreshore Management Plan for Cooper's Mill is currently being prepared and is in the final drafting stages. The Plan focuses on the heritage values of the Mill as well as the environmental values of the western end of Cooleenup Island. The plan will include actions to protect the existing infrastructure from further water damage and the surrounding environment from erosion.</p> <p>The CHRMAP is considered for wastewater and development applications on the Murray Delta Islands.</p> <p>Brush wall maintenance was undertaken on Yunderup and Cooleenup Islands, and a draft Annual Coastal Monitoring Plan was developed.</p>

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 through Azility in 2024. Benchmark reduction targets are yet to be adopted.
1.10	Prepare environmentally sustainable buildings local planning provisions	Policy adopted	2-5 years	Internal	Planning	In July 2025 Council adopted the draft Pinjarra Precinct Structure Plan which contains environmentally sustainable provisions for buildings. This is currently with the WAPC for final approval.
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 completed in 2025, a review of the Cycle Network Plan proposed in 2026.
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	A review is continuing to develop a controlled drainage outcome via Hampton Road that will improve the existing trapezoidal drainage to better move drainage movement while incorporating landscape and infiltration.
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	Initial work has been completed in North Dandalup to review and modify the drainage network to better align to standards and establish settling basin to better manage infiltration that support downstream wetlands.
2.4	Implement and promote the Waterwise Verge Rebate Program	Waterwise verges adopted	Ongoing	\$5000	Environment	Waterwise Verge Rebate Program implemented and one waterwise verge adopted.

						A combined total of 38 posts on Shire Facebook and Instagram social medias to promote programs and saving water.
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	Ongoing. All new facilities are built using NCC compliant fittings and fixtures, and provision for third pipe installation where possible. Where replacement fittings and fixtures are installed NCC compliant fittings are installed.
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 through Azility in 2024. Water usage data is provided to the Shire annually from Water Corp as well as data collected internally from Shire managed and used bores.
2.8	Provide information to the community on water resource management and efficiency in the home	Community reach	Ongoing	Internal	Communications and Environment	38 waterwise posts were shared on the Shire's Facebook and Instagram pages throughout the year. The Shire Facebook and Instagram pages have a combined following of 12,600.





## 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. In 2025, 36.01t of E-waste was diverted from landfill, up from 29.56t in 2024.</p> <p>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>A regular social media campaign is implemented on the Shire's media channels for community education on Waste. This includes – composting, recycling, and disposal of hazardous waste. Over the year 48 posts relating to waste were posted on the Shire's Facebook and Instagram social media profiles.</p> <p>The Shire regularly participates in wider campaigns including Be a Great Sort and Clean Up Australia Day.</p> <p>Clean Up Australia Day at Herron Point with Shire staff and stakeholders – Over 20 volunteers collected over 30 bags of rubbish, including dumped horse manure. Following the event a sign was erected regarding the clean-up of horse manure</p>

3.3	Improve waste management through diversion, reuse and recycling	Per capita reduction achieved	2-5 years	Internal	Waste	Requires greater stakeholder commitment – Federal/State Government, product producers.  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.
3.4	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	All new development was assessed against Strategy recommendations. Strategy scheduled to be updated in 2026/27 as per the Shire's Council Plan 'Plan for the Future'.
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	The 2025 Waterwise Native Plant Giveaway had 156 registered participants, and 2005 free seedlings were given away.
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	Maintenance of brush wall undertaken at Cooleenup and Yunderup Islands undertaken in November.  School's Tree Day held at George Brook Reserve in Ravenswood with 240 students and 15 teachers who helped plant 700 seedlings. Planting site was historically open pasture.
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	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.  Continuing to advocate to have the Dwellingup Discovery Forest formally recognised and protected by the State Government.  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 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	The Shire continues to advocate for improved post-mining rehabilitation of the Jarrah Forest. The Shire submitted comments to the EPA under the Alcoa PER for mining extension.
4.5	Prepare and implement Shire of Murray Reserve Management Plans	Plans adopted and actions implemented	Ongoing	\$30,000	Environment	<p>The Coolup Gun Club Conservation Management Plan was finalised and adopted by Council in December 2025. The plan includes actions to improve conservation of the reserve, reduce lead pollution and provide suggestions for potential expansion of the gun clubs.</p> <p>A Conservation Management Plan for Cooper's Mill is currently being prepared and is in the final drafting stages. The Plan focuses on the heritage values of the Mill as well as the environmental values of the western end of Cooleenup Island. The plan will include actions to protect the existing infrastructure from further water damage and the surrounding environment from erosion.</p>
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 including a two-day animal ethics workshop and three pest and weed workshops. Shire Officers also attended a Cat Containment webinar.</p> <p>Spraying of Cape Tulip and Watsonia was undertaken in November on the Murray Delta Islands by the Winjan Rangers as part of the Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group (PHBG) Cross-tenure Invasive Species Program (CrISP).</p> <p>Through the CrISP Program, the Shire is working closely with PHBG to undertake rabbit blood testing at several Shire Reserves to determine immunity of local rabbits to the calicivirus which will determine if the virus can be released in 2026.</p> <p>Shire Officers attended several Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) information workshops including a 'Training the Trainer' workshop and an on-site field trip at part of the WALGA PSHB Spring Seminar Series.</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 2026. A new policy is under development by Environmental Services.

4.8	Undertake a review of natural vegetation corridors to inform the development of a Greenbank Protection and Offset Strategy	Review completed	2-5 years	\$10,000	Infrastructure	Partially investigated however greater stakeholder commitment required to progress and implement a green bank strategy. Need 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  Discussions have been had with Peel Harvey Catchment Council. More information from Traditional Owners to be gathered by PHCC.
4.10	Increase urban canopy through street planting program	Street trees planted	Ongoing	Budgeted	Infrastructure and Environment	Round 3 Urban Greening Grant funding allowed the Shire to plant 222 Street trees in South Yunderup, Austin Lakes, Pinjarra and North Pinjarra at targeted sites and private residences (by 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 is currently with the WAPC for consent to advertise. A new policy is under development by Environmental Services.
4.12	Participate in the WALGA Urban Forest Working Group	Participation	1-2 years	Internal	Planning and Environment	The Shire's Manager of Planning and Sustainability, Coordinator of Environmental Services and Environmental Officer participated in 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.  The Peel Harvey Catchment Council workshop 'Future Ready Farming Soil Health' was advertised on the Shire website and social medias.  The Shire's Environmental Health team consider nutrient mitigation measures for wastewater systems within the Peel-Harvey Estuary catchment.



## Sustainable community

Actions	Measurement	Timeline	Budget	Department	Progress
5.0 Continue to manage and monitor mosquito populations	Mosquito numbers	Ongoing	\$60,000	Health	<p>There were 30 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 late rains and hot weather causing very active mosquito breeding, with frequent treatments by helicopter required.</p> <p>To effectively implement the Shire’s Mosquito Management Plan, the budget has now increased from \$60,000 to \$80,000 for 2025/26 supplemented by the Department of Health. This allows the Shire to use a combination of larvicides in the helicopter simultaneously, killing multiple mosquito larval stages together. This has increased the effectiveness of the mosquito treatments.</p>
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	<p>School’s Tree Day held at George Brook Reserve in Ravenswood with approximately 240 students and 15 teachers who helped plant and tree guard 700 seedlings. The remaining 700 seedlings were given to participating schools to plant on school grounds or given to students to take home and plant on private property.</p>
5.2 Develop and implement a public Communications Strategy to promote Sustainability	Strategy adopted	2-5 years	Internal	Communications	<p>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.</p> <p>The website information informs social media campaigns including Invite Guests Not Pests, Being Waterwise, Waste, and Declared Weeds.</p>
5.3 Develop education and behaviour change programs to support local residents and businesses to tackle climate change through clean	Programs adopted	5-10 years	Budgeted	Environment and Communications	Not yet completed

energy, energy efficiency and sustainable transport

5.4	Support and involve youth representation in community sustainability decision making and implementation	Community reach	2-5 years	Internal	Community Development	<p>The youth forums are under review in 2026.</p> <p>Regular school holiday program Food, Film, Fun features meals made from scratch with the October session partnered with the Pinjarra Community Garden to incorporate garden to plate sustainability and composting initiatives.</p>
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





## 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 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 was completed and adopted by Council in December 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. Emails sent to Councillors regularly regarding training.
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 and external grants provide opportunities for applications for funding for projects that protect the environment.



**Shire of  
Murray**

**Administration Office**  
1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra WA 6208  
PO Box 21 Pinjarra WA 6208

T: (08) 9531 7777  
E: [mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au](mailto:mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au)  
   @ShireofMurray

[murray.wa.gov.au](http://murray.wa.gov.au)