



His Worship the Mayor
Councillors
City of Marion

Notice of Environment Committee

Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt

Tuesday, 6 June 2023 at 8.00 pm

The CEO hereby gives Notice pursuant to the provisions under Section 83 of the *Local Government Act 1999* that an Environment Committee will be held.

A copy of the Agenda for this meeting is attached in accordance with Section 83 of the Act.

Meetings of the Council are open to the public and interested members of this community are welcome to attend. Access to the Council Chamber is via the main entrance to the Administration Centre on Sturt Road, Sturt.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Harrison", is positioned above the printed name.

Tony Harrison
Chief Executive Officer

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1 Open Meeting

2 Kurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023

Report Reference	EC230606R4.1
Originating Officer	Business Support Officer – Governance and Council Support – Cassidy Mitchell
Corporate Manager	Manager Office of the Chief Executive – Kate McKenzie
General Manager	Chief Executive Officer – Tony Harrison

RECOMMENDATION

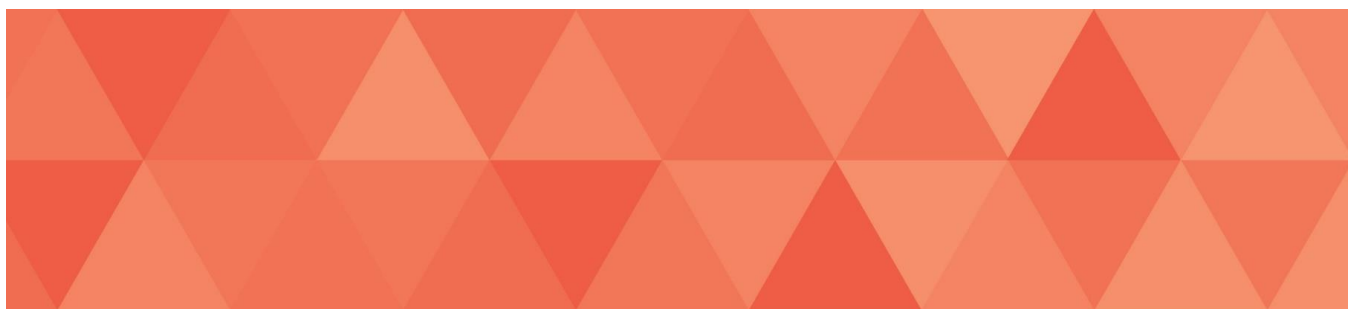
That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. E C 230404 - Final Minutes [4.1.1 - 8 pages]



**Minutes of the Environment Committee
held on Tuesday, 4 April 2023 at 8.00 pm
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**



**PRESENT**

Councillor Jason Veliskou (Chair)
His Worship the Mayor Kris Hanna – left the meeting at 8:10pm, re-entered at 8:35
Councillor Raelene Telfer from 8:10pm
Councillor Sarah Luscombe

In Attendance

Councillor Luke Naismith
Chief Executive Officer - Tony Harrison
General Manager Corporate Services – Angela Allison
Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services - Colleen Madsen
Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability - Rebecca Neumann
Waste Education Officer - Allison Byrne
Coordinator Arboriculture - Ian Seccafien
Community Gardens Coordinator - Anna Haygreen
Environmental Engagement Office – Jess Mitchell

1 Open Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.05pm.

2 Kaurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

The Chair asked if any member wished to disclose an interest in relation to any item being considered at the meeting.

The following interests were disclosed:

- Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes**4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2023**

Report Reference EC230404R4.1

EC230404 - Environment Committee Meeting - 4 April 2023



Moved Councillor Luscombe

Seconded Mayor Hanna

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference EC230404R5.1

The schedule of upcoming items was discussed.

The Committee decided on the following topics for the 6 June 2023 meeting.

- Biodiversity Plan
- Resilient South

Moved Councillor Luscombe

Seconded Mayor Hanna

That the Environment Committee:

1. Notes the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items.

Carried unanimously.

6 Confidential Items - Nil

7 Reports for Discussion

7.1 Waste and recycling

Report Reference EC230404R7.1

Shani Wood, Environment Officer at the City of Holdfast Bay (CoHB) provided a presentation on their weekly FOGO and fortnightly landfill system.

The Committee noted the following during the presentation:

- The system has been implemented over the past 4 years.
- In 2007 CoHB moved to 3 bin system and saw a 47% diversion rate. Kitchen caddies were introduced 10 years ago, and the landfill diversion rate jumped to 58% but has since plateaued.
- Benefits of a weekly FOGO collection:
 - Removes smell barrier of food scraps sitting in a FOGO bin.
 - Encourages residents to be more diligent with their waste.
 - More environmentally sustainable and over the long-term no additional cost to the community.



- Increases resource recovery rates of food waste which is processed into compost.
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions associated with organic disposal to landfill.
- Diverts waste away from landfill.
- Main challenges - multiple unit dwellings, businesses, and elderly residents.
- 3,000 residents commencing trial 4 years ago with an opt in model (25% uptake). Swapping to a trial opt out model across 300 households saw an increase in numbers trialing it (76%).
- Council-wide model rolled out July 2022, across a 3-month period. Strongly recommended to stage the roll out and resource well due to number of enquiries i.e., requests to upsize the bins, many residents (including elderly demographic) who were not computer literate phoned to opt out of the service and general enquiries about the program. CoHB received approximately 3,000 additional call centre calls over a six-month period.
- Bin size - households that stay on the weekly FOGO model; if you have a household with 5 or more family members or a household with a family member in nappies or a medical condition, you can have a 240l landfill bin or 360l recycle bin.
- Community engagement is key to the success of the program. Residents wanted to hear from their neighbours that were engaging in the program.
- 70% landfill diversion was reached in November 2022, 20% increase in FOGO tonnage.
- 22% of eligible households have opted out. (Within predicted range.)
- Emissions from additional truck; when organic matter breaks down in landfill it creates methane, a greenhouse gas that is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Emissions associated with an additional bin truck are insignificant compared to the methane emissions saving from the switch to weekly FOGO.
- Nappies – Many resident enquiries centered on the smell of nappies in the bins. Following a trial in Lake Macquarie City Council it found that the average odour of a landfill bin with nappy waste for a week was approximately the same as the average odour rating of a nappy bin at the end of a fortnight.
- Finances – collection cost is approximately 10% more due to the cost of the additional truck required on recycling week, however, is offset by not having to pay for diverting waste to landfill.
- Green Industries best practice guide (June 2023) will include a savings and cost spreadsheet.

Questions/discussion from the Committee included:

- Is there any prediction of the slope of opting in, will there be momentum?
 - CoHB is an opt out model city-wide, sitting about 22% and having about 30 households opting out each week. Hence the reason for the focus group to ascertain how to get households to opt back in.
- Cost recovery - The presenter advised that the old service is costing the council more and is not as good for the environment. It is possible to consider the option if you can have weekly landfill but will have to pay more for that service.



- Clarification on opt out – 22% what is the real cost of collecting that weekly with the trucks circulating the streets on two occasions? Can we extrapolate the \$ cost of addressing the demand for weekly landfill collection over our size and scale?
 - The presented responded that it will probably depend on how the contractor invoices - no opt out option would be cheaper.
 - EPA legislation does not allow this option.
- CEO commented that the Deputy Premier has advised the legislation is not currently up for review and considers the current legislative provision to be appropriate. If lobbied sufficiently they may be interested in reviewing it.
- The chair questioned what the backlash/consequence of forcing people onto FOGO would be.
 - The presenter's opinion was that the main backlash of forcing people onto the system or charging them is a lack of understanding the model.
- CoM green organics goes to Peat Soils, a local composter at Langhorne Creek for processing.
- Home composting is promoted - we offer home composting rebates for interested residents. Generally, households need a larger yard to compost. Approximately 10 -15% of our residents' compost.
- How far away are we from our contract changing to a pickup system?
 - Approximately 3 or more years on our current contract, however we can negotiate an alternative when re-contracting.
- CoHB auditing of what is going into the bins - paying someone to sort through the bins. Auditing around 400 households on the weekly FOGO service, 400 households on the opt out service, businesses, and larger multi-unit dwellings.
- Contractor - it may be worth speaking with City of Charles Sturt as they are also with Cleanaway and currently undergoing a trial. May have some recommendations on how to work with the contractor.

Further discussion from the Committee included:

- Community groups seeking information around environmental initiatives – staff regularly conduct educational sessions and are happy to be referred to the groups.
- Attachment 3 – Business case development (approx. \$30,000)
 - We have good evidence on each of the main variables.
 - There is a preference for the Business case to be done within existing resources using internal expertise and in collaboration with the City of Holdfast Bay and other Councils. Noted that if more detail is needed later this could be revisited.
 - Administration commented that a specialised consultant would provide a thorough due diligence process.
 - Noted additional resources may be required for roll out.
 - Business case to be presented to Council prior to Council commitment on the project.
 - Noted should a consultant not be engaged we need to utilise the spreadsheet from the Green Industries Guidelines which is anticipated will be available in July.

**Moved Councillor Luscombe****Seconded Councillor Telfer**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Notes that the Committee has provided feedback on the waste and recycling priorities for 2023 (refer Attachment 1).
2. Notes the presentation from City of Holdfast Bay Environment Officer Shani Wood on the weekly "FOGO" program and the written summary of the Holdfast Bay FOGO collection provided in Attachment 2.
3. Notes that the Committee has provided feedback on the proposed stages and timeframes for a weekly organics collection service presented in Attachment 3.

Carried unanimously.

7.2 Trees and Urban Greening

Report Reference EC230404R7.2

Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability provided a summary of the report.

The Committee noted the following discussion points and comments:

- Street tree removal requires flexibility as the criteria does not always cover all situations.
- We have an ambitious tree planting program, however staffing and service level funding are not as ambitious. Determine what quantification is required to ask for in future budgets.
- SA Power Networks (SAPN) may give some challenges regarding what types of trees we can plant and may also have resourcing implications.
- Service reviews have reduced the numbers of FTEs, and we will have a shortfall of internal resources to maintain the increased number of trees.
- Receiving a high number of resident complaints about our trees i.e., insects, berries etc.
- Tree management and maintenance are becoming a significant issue.
- It is important to have guidelines on the selection and planting of our trees.
- Management on pruning and maintenance of trees.
- Greening Strategy needs to be strategic, refers to general principles that mark service standards, references other policies and procedures and that any action plans are treated as plans as part of the Open Space Plan, Forestree etc.
- Vandalism is an ongoing battle. Report through the salesforce portal which we are looking to integrate with Forestree.
- Urban Tree Warriors volunteer program launched - allocated a section of Forestree where they look after their own section of the trees.
- Working to create a digitised Urban Tree Asset Management Plan (first in Australia).
- Key principle in AMP is the connection with habitat.
- Tree sucker issues – staff advised that some trees would shoot from root systems and others below the graft coming off the root stock. Looking at using a couple of options on how

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to better manage the problem: 1. A chemical treatment option that is used in grapevines very successfully. The City of West Torrens piloted that program over the past 12 months with very good results. A chemical is used to suppress the sucker growth from developing, this is applied around Springtime and has been used on their Pyrus trees. CoM is going to trial this in Spring. Harder to prevent when coming off the root system of the tree. This chemical has been approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

Moved Mayor Hanna

Seconded Councillor Telfer

That the Environment Committee:

1. Notes the Committee provided feedback on priorities for trees and greening for 2023 (Attachment 1).
2. Notes the Committee provided feedback on the proposal and timeframes for the Marion Greening Strategy (Attachment 2).
3. Notes the Committee provided feedback on the Trees Asset Management Plan (Attachment 3).

Carried unanimously.

7.3 Environmental Engagement

Report Reference EC230404R7.3

The report and attachments were taken as read.

Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability, Rebecca Neumann introduced the Environmental Engagement Officer, Jess Mitchell and Community Gardens Coordinator, Anna Haygreen who presented on the environmental engagement priorities.

The Committee noted the following:

- There is a strong appetite in the community for environmental issues.
- Focus on the many people who want to do the right thing. Can be a mis-guided effort to focus on the small group that already engages. Need to make it easy for the 'middle group' who want to do the right thing but are not sure how.
- Can staff look at ways to support people with savings, such as growing seedlings etc.
- Community Gardens – when the guidelines are reviewed look at ways to make it easier for community groups to grow community gardens. Is there an opportunity to have land set aside just for community gardens, can it be easily set aside without the need to jump through hoops?
- Through engagement activities it was noted there is an increase in food growing and a high level of interest in community gardens.



8

- Community gardens would not get planning approval to be zoned - if we are to set aside land for community gardens, we would either manage those ourselves or call for an expression of interest.
- We have a verge incentive fund. Recently ran a fully booked workshop on planting natives on verges. Has worked as a good model around rebate incentive schemes. Potentially looking at a small incentive scheme for greening.

Moved Councillor Telfer**Seconded Councillor Luscombe**

That the Environment Committee:

1. Noted the discussion and provided feedback on the current range of environmental engagement themes and initiatives for 2023 (Attachment 1).

Carried unanimously.

8 Reports for Noting - Nil**9 Workshop / Presentation Items - Nil****10 Other Business****11 Meeting Closure**

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.27pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 6 DAY OF JUNE 2023

CHAIRPERSON

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference	EC230606R5.1
Originating Officer	Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services – Colleen Madsen
Corporate Manager	N/A
General Manager	General Manager City Services – Ben Keen

REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to review the business arising from previous meetings of the Environment Committee meetings, the meeting schedule and upcoming items.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

1. **Notes the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. EC230606 Business Arising as at 06 June 2023 [5.1.1 - 1 page]
2. EC230606 Schedule of Upcoming Items 2023 [5.1.2 - 2 pages]
3. EC230606 Draft Topic Suggestions grouped [5.1.3 - 3 pages]

**CITY OF MARION
BUSINESS ARISING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS****AS AT 06 JUNE 2023** 

Meeting Date	Document	Item No.	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
				NIL ACTIONS			

* Completed items to be removed are shaded

Environment Committee – 2022 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 1 February	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Workshop Agenda for 2023	W				
Environmental Update	P			R Neumann	
Parliamentary Inquiry into the Urban Forest	W			R Neumann	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 4 April	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Trees Asset Management and Greening Strategy	R			R Neumann / I Seccafien	
Waste and Recycling	R			R Neumann / A Byrne	
Education within the broader community	R			R Neumann / B Jaggard	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 6 June	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029	R			J Lemon / R Neumann	
Resilient South	R			R Neumann	

Environment Committee – 2022 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 5 September	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 7 November	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	

Environment Committee Suggested Topics Categorised on 7 February 2023 Meeting

Council Operations		
Greening/nature management	Waste management with a FOGO focus	Energy
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 Greenery and open spaces for residents to enjoy for generations to come.	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 FOGO introduction	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 1 – better understanding of COM sustainability incentives scheme offers i.e., residential, business, and commercial solar PV's, energy monitoring, more electric vehicle charging stations, water saving devices, home energy assessments, battery storage programs.
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 What species of trees are being planted near them so they know how they can maintain them?	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Skip at City services and Adam's Rd, plus other location to receive soft plastics	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Could also be included in a topic on Carbon Neutral Waste and energy audits in council process and identify how reduce both with awareness of business impact.
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 Overarching clear vision for council that we will prioritise tree canopy, biodiversity, etc., as our vision - so policy to fall back e.g., if road widening impacting established trees mooted - have consistency in approach.	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Alterations to bin schedule and repercussions?	Carbon Neutral Embodied Carbon - measurement
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 Trees planting and pruning	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Detailed analysis of FOGO at holdfast - do larger red bins reduce waste overall - what is opt out rate?	Carbon Neutral Solar on buildings
Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Education program on biodiversity, tree planting and how to plant workshops.		Carbon Neutral Battery and solar storage on all major COM buildings.
Biodiversity Plan EC 6 June 2023 Utilise friends of Glenthorne		Carbon Neutral Integration of renewal energy sources as a part of our long term 'energy' strategy for COM, for generations to come.
Biodiversity Plan EC 6 June 2023 Looking at impact of council's chemical use on, soil (microbes), flora, fauna, and human health		Charging business models? Can we have chargers at our infrastructure which are pay per use with solar to provide power?
Biodiversity Plan EC 6 June 2023 Using steam weed killing system rather than spraying of chemicals in the footpath to kill weeds, Holdfast Bay council has already been doing this		

Environment Committee Suggested Topics Categorised on 7 February 2023 Meeting

Influencing Behaviour Within the Council Area		
Education	Actions	Strategy
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 An education piece in preparation for the huge greening project during and after the 'North/South' Corridors.	Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 Greening/ and greening strategies along our motorways, roads, trams, trains, transport routes and how we can become 'leaders' in greening, in spaces that we did not think possible.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Waste & Recycling Promoting bulk buying or purchasing in your own containers etc. (at a less challenging time for households) to provide alternatives to people grabbing new bags at supermarkets. Everyone thinks that because they are still available (because technically they are not single use) then that means they are OK for the environment and use of reuse appears low through observations at supermarkets.
Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Running regular education programs for our residents on how we dispose/manage our everyday waste, tree planting, by maintaining more greenery and vegetation.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Further work on energy saving/ generation looks at funding for innovations.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Organise external incentives (no or little council cost) for things like water-saving, power-saving, or waste reduction.
Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Broader Education on not only recycling but energy use and also water conservation behaviour.	Opt-in cradle to grave waste stewardship with local business.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Forum for residents for what they want for Climate Action Now.
Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Waste education and engagement needs to start at the ground level. How and what to recycle.	How to promote less waste production in business.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Build library of info for residents - Knowledge base.
Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Further education and advocacy to local/state bodies as well as residents on their behaviour around single use plastic bags.		Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Practical environmentalism.
Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Waste education improved comms on recycling - have the stickers on their bins saying what can and cannot go in each bin. More education of the public (potentially more funding needed – for the staff in the environmental/education areas) as well as minimum and measurable metrics/KPI's on the comms and messaging and engagement from the public.		Climate Change Adaptation Resilience discussion groups per suburb.

Environment Committee Suggested Topics Categorised on 7 February 2023 Meeting

Themes for Broader Outside Council Area		
Energy	Climate Change	Waste/Recycling with Soft Plastics Focus
Community Electricity and Renewables Big picture contribution either through local site or working with others or lobbying or supporting research for new energy storage methods - vanadium batteries or more readily available options to lithium batteries.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Sustainable planets focus or theme "A sustainable planet for all"	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Advocating to (and possibly participating with) other councils, state, and federal government for the establishment of a cross council/state/national soft plastic recycling facility.
Community Electricity and Renewables Looking at how we can align with other governments policy/vision such as: "Electrifying Boothby" www.rewiringaustralia.org/community/boothby	Carbon Neutral and/or Climate Change Adaptation Carbon Sequestration (timber plantation or something else?)	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Who is soft plastic recycling, and should we pursue?
Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Community Electricity and Renewables Hydrogen generation at SRWRA and Hydrogen powered dump trucks?	Climate Change Adaptation Climate change mitigation for flooding Sturt drain, storm damage, wind damage.	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Advocating for a legislative change regarding our soft plastics recycling.
What part can we play in hydrogen economy?	Climate Change Adaptation Mitigation of climate change translated in building codes and standards.	How do we really accelerate the circular economy?
Hydrogen – possible along the announcement involving Edwardstown.	Biodiversity Plan EC 6 June 2023 Biodiversity loss of species- flora and fauna	
Solar for businesses?	Coastal Management Work on coastal mapping with sea level rises.	

6 Confidential Items - Nil

7 Reports for Discussion

7.1 Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029

Report Reference	EC230606R7.1
Originating Officer	Coordinator Biodiversity – Jacob Lemon
Corporate Manager	Manager Operations – Brian Green
General Manager	General Manager City Services – Ben Keen

REPORT HISTORY

Report Reference	Report Title
GC130318R05	Remnant Native Vegetation Plan

REPORT OBJECTIVE

To update the Environment Committee on the current review of the *City of Marion Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018 – 2023* and seek feedback on future priorities and resourcing.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018-2023 is currently being reviewed to identify priorities and resourcing for the next five years.

Key changes proposed include:

- Broadening the scope of the plan to identify priorities in biodiversity and urban ecosystem management (not just protection of remnant native vegetation).
- A clearer biodiversity monitoring and reporting framework.
- New options around levels of service around biodiversity management.

A draft of the Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029 including feedback from the Environment Committee will be brought to General Council later in 2023 seeking approval for public consultation.

Presentations from key staff (approximately 15 minutes) will summarise key priorities and elaborate on some of the key points presented in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

1. **Notes and provides feedback on the proposed priorities, timeframes and process for the development of City of Marion Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029.**
2. **Recommends the adoption of the plan (with associated feedback addressed) at the General Council meeting on 3rd October 2023.**

DISCUSSION

Achievements from the current plan

The Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018-2023 was endorsed by Council in March 2018 and has helped protect and improve over 82 hectares of Council's most important native vegetation. The plan was a first for the City of Marion and allowed for consistent resourcing to be distributed across 29 priority sites.

Since the implementation of the conservation plan, we have achieved significant milestones in protecting and enhancing our natural environment. This includes:

- Over 82 hectares of important remnant vegetation have been safeguarded and enhanced.
- An average increase of 15-20% on the health of sites based on our monitoring program.
- Over 50,000 native plants have been planted, contributing to the restoration of degraded habitats.
- Weed control focused on eradicating declared weeds such as Gazania, Swamp Oak, Desert Ash, Boneseed and Olive.
- Support for environmental volunteer groups at four biodiversity reserves (through contracted services from Trees for Life as part of the Bush for Life program).
- Direct support and coordination of volunteer involvement in key council reserves along the Sturt River and Field River.
- Educational signage and fencing at numerous reserves to raise awareness about the importance of conservation.
- All fire breaks have been fully mapped and resourced for fuel reduction works each year, ensuring that our reserves are better prepared for potential bushfires.
- Supporting establishment of "opportunity" sites through improved natural landscaping and as part of reserve upgrades.

Opportunities for the revised plan

Australia is one of the world's most biodiverse countries, however colonisation and urbanisation over the past 200 years has led to significant biodiversity decline. The current Australian State of the Environment Report¹ highlights the alarming, continued decline of Australia's ecosystems which has generated widespread concern amongst specialists and the community. There are now calls for immediate action to address the key issues identified in the report, such as habitat destruction, climate change, pollution, lack of incentives and a poor regulatory environment.

At the global scale, declines in biodiversity and ecosystem health and their link to human health and wellbeing are the subject of a range of international conventions and agreements particularly through the direction of the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals.

At the local scale, the City of Marion has a relatively high variety of ecosystems and habitat types for such an urbanised area of Adelaide. However, many of the issues that are threatening biodiversity at the national and global scale are evident at our local scale and present a clear call to action for local government.

The review of the City of Marion Remnant Vegetation Management Plan aims to directly address these priorities so that we can confidently see how the City of Marion is contributing to national and global biodiversity priorities.

The new plan will address the following directions:

- 1. Establishing a strong system to monitor and publicly report on the condition of biodiversity in our council area.**

¹ www.soe.dcceew.gov.au

Monitoring is a vital step towards ensuring that our Biodiversity sites are progressing and that resources are appropriately allocated. By implementing effective monitoring strategies, we can gather data on the state of our Biodiversity sites, identify areas that require attention, and track progress over time. This information can help us make informed decisions about how to allocate resources, prioritise management efforts, and implement strategies that are most effective in achieving our conservation goals. Increased monitoring can also help us identify potential threats and challenges to our Biodiversity sites, such as invasive species or changes in climate, allowing us to respond quickly and effectively to mitigate negative impacts.

2. Biodiversity mapping to identify high priority sites, threatened species and key regional linkages.

Ensuring we have baselines and records of all biodiversity sites within the council area and that these are shared in the correct format through a central database as a single point of truth (Biological Database of South Australia).

There are significant patches of biodiversity that exist where City of Marion does not have care and control over the land. For these areas council will advocate for mapping and records to be taken so that the significance of these areas can be commonly understood. These sites occur mainly in the south of the council area along the coastline, through gullies and in areas where development has been limited.

Mapping is critical to ensure we can report on the total number of hectares of biodiversity in the council area and how this figure is trending over time.

3. Setting and advocating for appropriate levels of protection for biodiversity sites.

Most of the City of Marion does not have application of the Native Vegetation Act 1992. This legislation is the most basic form of protection of native vegetation in South Australia and is connected to a range of overlays in the Planning and Design Code that aim to limit development on significant biodiversity sites. Council has advocated for changes in this area; however, clearance of high-quality native vegetation is still occurring due to development (predominantly in coastal areas).

Opportunities also exist to review the zoning of high priority sites under the Planning and Design Code. Similarly, classifications of high priority biodiversity sites need to be regularly reviewed through Council's Open Space Framework.

4. Development of biodiversity precincts and icon species.

Fragmentation of habitats is a key threatening process that limits the health of ecosystems and in particular leads to the decline of fauna. A reduction of small birds (such as fairy wrens) throughout the Adelaide area and increasing dominance of larger aggressive species (such as noisy minors) is a direct result of this fragmented habitat type.

Improving connectivity of our sites by expanding existing high-quality areas and creating new linkages will have a positive impact on preserving and promoting the diversity of plant and animal life within the council area.

The plan will enable further resourcing for key high exposure sites that will allow the City of Marion to showcase its biodiversity to the local community and those who travel from outside the Council area. The use of icon species assists with informing the design of new sites and supports engagement and communication on our progress.

Key linkage areas for expansion and better resourcing include:

- Coastline and coastal gullies (linking through the Coastal Walking Trail and state-managed Hallett Cove and Marino Conservation Parks). Potential icon species:
 - Shingleback Lizard
 - Diamond Sand-Skipper Butterfly.
- Field River and Waterfall Creek (linking state-managed sites at Glenthorne, O'Halloran Hill and Field River). Potential icon species:
 - Stubble Quail
 - Nankeen Night Heron.
- Sturt River (linking through the Sturt Linear Trail reserves and Warriparinga and Oaklands Wetlands). Potential icon species
 - Superb Fairywren
 - Chequered Copper Butterfly.

5. Supporting community leadership, engagement, and volunteering.

Continued and increased support for our environmental volunteer groups is a crucial step towards achieving our environmental conservation goals. By providing ongoing support, we can empower these groups to continue their vital work in protecting and preserving our natural environment. This support can take various forms, such as training, tools, and resources, to ensure that these groups have everything they need to carry out their activities effectively.

The plan will also provide direction for broader engagement, education, and awareness-raising activities. This includes programs such as the Gazania-free Gardening campaign, workshops and events and communications material provided through the council website, social media, and newsletters such as Green Thymes.

6. Improved data for planning of operational expenditure – particularly weed control and management of natural landscaping areas.

Establishment of a data management system (similar to the program Forestree) to map and manage weed control activities would significantly enhance our weed management efforts. By accurately mapping and tracking the location and distribution of weed populations, we could develop more targeted and effective control strategies. Propriety systems currently exist to meet this need allowing us to monitor the growth of weeds over time, identify areas of high weed density and prioritize management efforts. This approach to weed management can help reduce the spread of invasive species and protect the biodiversity of our natural ecosystems.

The new plan also presents an opportunity to incorporate the planning for ongoing maintenance and renewal of natural landscaping. It is important that for the best possible successful outcome that these spaces are managed with a biodiversity lens and budgeted appropriately to maintain operational efficiency and service levels for the community.

7. Kurna engagement and Aboriginal Land Management.

There are many opportunities for increased involvement of Kurna knowledge, practices and enterprise in biodiversity.

Aboriginal Land Management is becoming an increasingly better understood field, with Kurna-led cool burning practices being regularly incorporated into grassland management for cultural preservation, ecological benefits, and reducing bushfire risks. These methods have been used for thousands of years by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to promote biodiversity. The review of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is an opportunity to further explore these opportunities in consultation with the Kurna Community.

8. Threatened species protection and restoration.

The re-introduction of extinct and threatened plant species is a key step towards restoring and preserving our natural ecosystems. By partnering with Green Adelaide, the State Herbarium, and specialist ecologists, we can access expertise and resources to ensure the success of these re-introduction efforts. Through careful planning and management, we can create suitable habitats and ensure the survival and growth of these plants, which may have significant ecological and cultural value. These partnerships also provide opportunities for education and engagement with the wider community on the importance of preserving biodiversity and the role we can play in achieving this goal.

9. Integration of biodiversity through urban design and major developments.

There are significant trends occurring around better integration of “biodiversity sensitive urban design” (BSUD) into major developments and buildings. This is being championed globally in cities such as Singapore, Wellington (NZ), London, Barcelona, and several major cities in the USA. Locally there is increased opportunity for major projects to incorporate biodiversity as part of their requirements in Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD).

At the local level, the biodiversity plan could provide direction to:

- Advocate for “nature positive” design. This means that the biodiversity value of a site after development exceeds predevelopment.
- Stronger direction to consider biodiversity at the beginning of project scoping and a need to publicly disclose all impacts to biodiversity at the early project scoping stage.
- No offsetting of biodiversity loss more than a certain number of kilometres from where it is removed.

10. Climate resilience in biodiversity.

It is becoming increasingly important that biodiversity management considers the hazards of climate change. This can include:

- Ensuring that biodiversity is managed to reduce bushfire risk. And conversely that fire breaks and risk reduction does not negatively impact on existing biodiversity sites.
- Selection of native species in urban areas that are able to survive urban hazards. This may include a need to move from historic pre-European species lists towards those adapted to more arid conditions.
- Provide refuges for fauna during extreme heat events e.g., through planting and retention of large canopy trees and wetland areas that include safe refuges.
- Allowing retreat and adaptation of habitat types that might be threatened by sea level rise. This could include retreat of dune areas or supporting creation of new intertidal habitats with new living shorelines.

11. Supporting commercial production of locally native species.

A major limitation to the largescale uptake of biodiversity in landscaping is the lack of availability of certain species in commercial nurseries. Where possible council could be selecting supplies from landscaping companies that are sourcing local provenance seed to help boost market demand.

Resourcing

The new plan will require additional resourcing with options outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Resourcing options for the new Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029

Option 1 (p/a)	Option 2 (p/a)	Option 3 (p/a)
\$450,000	\$650,000	\$800,000
82 hectares	101 hectares	115 hectares
36 priority sites	41 priority sites	51 priority sites
12,500 plants	13,500 plants	15,000 plants
500m of fencing	1,000m of fencing	1,500m of fencing
2 educational signs	3 educational signs	5 educational signs
Biodiversity monitoring on 4 sites	Biodiversity monitoring on 6 sites	Biodiversity monitoring on 8 sites.

- Option 1 provides a similar service level to what is currently being provided as part of the current resourcing budget in the Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018-2023. It does allow for an increase in maintenance at some of the current sites.
- Option 2 provides an increase in service level plus the opportunity to resource several new sites. It also includes development of a weed mapping program with the ability to more strategically manage and control declared weeds.
- Option 3 provides a significant increase in service level plus the opportunity to resource multiple new sites. This level has a high focus on high foot traffic areas as well as key linkage sites with the Field River / Glenthorne National Park precinct. It also provides an opportunity to establish a Kaurua Land Management project, additional natural landscaping sites, seed collection program and increase capacity to support our evolving environmental volunteering groups.

Implementation

A draft plan is currently being developed according to the timeframes indicated in Table 2.

Table 2. Proposed timeframes for the development and implementation of the Biodiversity Plan.

Stage	Who	Timing
Initial drafting and technical consideration	Key CoM staff	Jan – June 2023
Test scope and directions	Environment Committee	June 2023
Draft Plan	Key CoM staff Professional technical review	June – Sept 2023
Draft plan for public consultation	General Council	October 2023
Public Consultation	Key Stakeholders (government partners, community groups, technical specialists) Community (Making Marion)	November 2023
Final Draft	Key CoM staff	Dec 2023 – Jan 2024
Final Biodiversity Plan endorsement and funding commitment	General Council	Feb 2024
Implementation (five years)	CoM administration	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029

For Discussion

Presentations will be provided by:

- Jacob Lemon, Coordinator Biodiversity
- Sam Ryan, Open Space Volunteer Coordinator
- Rebecca Neumann, Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability

Key areas for discussion by Environment Committee include:

- Any questions or feedback on achievements on the current *Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018-2023*
- Questions or feedback on the proposed directions and timeframes of the new City of Marion Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029 proposed in this report.

For noting from EC230207

The following priorities that were identified by the Environment Committee at the meeting on 7 February 2023 can be addressed in the meeting through the new plan.

Item raised by EC Members at EC230207	Response
<p>Looking at impact of council's chemical use on, soil (microbes), flora, fauna, and human health</p>	<p>✓ Ongoing</p> <p>Council reviews chemical safety through the Health Safety and Environment (HSE) system.</p> <p>This system ensures that council staff and contractors assess all the risks associated with this chemical and utilise appropriate controls using tools such as standard operating procedures, JSEA's (Job Safety Environment Analysis) to maintain the safety of their workers, the general public and the environment.</p> <p>The approach to weed control is dependent on the situation, with sensitive biodiversity sites often focusing on selectively timed brush cutting and hand weeding.</p> <p>Further direction on weed control will be included in the updated biodiversity plan.</p>
<p>Using steam weed killing system rather than spraying of chemicals in the footpath to kill weeds, Holdfast Bay council has already been doing this</p>	<p>× Not pursued</p> <p>Previous questions on the appropriateness of herbicides such as glyphosate have been raised by Council (e.g., GC200428M02).</p> <p>The use of steam for weeding has a significant increase in resources. At the last estimate it was 5-10 times the cost of Glyphosate.</p>
<p>Biodiversity loss of species- flora and fauna</p>	<p>✓ In progress</p> <p>This is a key feature of the new plan. In particular this new plan will have a strong focus on fauna and urban ecosystems.</p>

ATTACHMENTS

1. Biodiversity Environment Committee Presentation - June 2023 [7.1.1 - 19 pages]



Biodiversity Plan 2024-2029

Presented by Jacob Lemon,
Rebecca Neumann and Sam
Ryan

Photograph by Lincoln Allen



Remnant Native Vegetation Plan 2018-2023

- ◆ 82 hectares of remnant native vegetation improved
- ◆ Average increase in condition of 15-20%
- ◆ Over 75,000 native plants planted
- ◆ Improved support for 4 environmental volunteer groups
- ◆ Educational signage at 10 Biodiversity reserves
- ◆ Fire break mapping
- ◆ Over 2km of fencing

Photograph by Jock Conlon



Directions
that will be
addressed
through the
new plan:

Photograph by Jock Conlon



1. Establishing a strong system to monitor and publicly report on the condition of biodiversity in our Council area

- ◆ Implementing effective monitoring strategies
- ◆ Gather data on the state of our sites
- ◆ Identify areas that require attention
- ◆ Track progress over time

Photograph by Jock Conlon



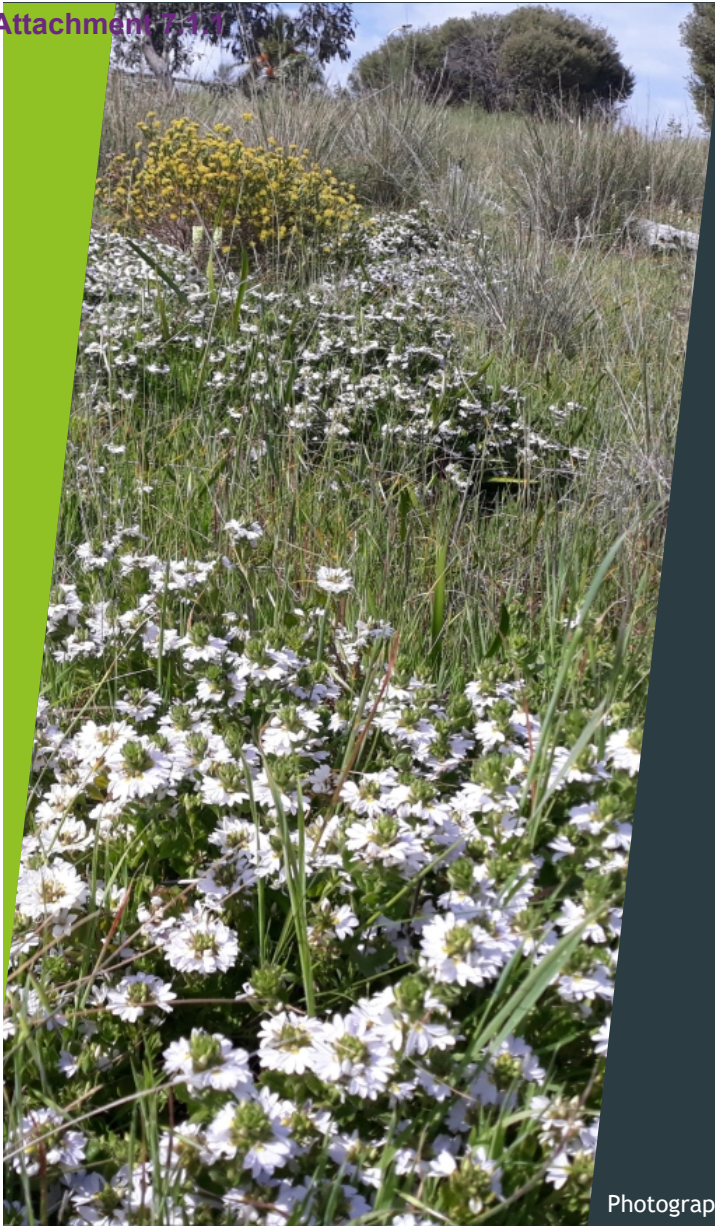
2. Biodiversity mapping to identify high priority sites, threatened species and key regional linkages

- ◆ Baseline records of all Biodiversity sites
- ◆ Share of data through a single point of truth
- ◆ Mapping of private conservation

Photograph by Jacob Lemon

3. Setting and advocating for appropriate levels of protection for Biodiversity sites

- ◆ Consider zoning of high priority sites
- ◆ Regular review of these sites through Council's Open Space Framework



Photograph by Jock Conlon



4. Development of biodiversity precincts and icon species

- ◆ Improving connectivity
- ◆ Expanding high quality areas
- ◆ Promoting diversity of plant and animal life within CoM
- ◆ Icon Species

Photograph by Dan Easton



4. Development of biodiversity precincts and icon species

- ◆ Coastline & coastal gullies
 - Shingleback Lizard
 - Diamond Sand-skipper Butterfly
- ◆ Field River & Waterfall Creek
 - Stubble Quail
 - Nankeen Night Heron
- ◆ Sturt River
 - Superb Fairywren
 - Chequered Copper Butterfly

Photograph by Dan Easton



5. Supporting community leadership, engagement and volunteering

- ◆ Continued and increased support
- ◆ Training, tools and resources
- ◆ Direction for broader engagement

6. Improved data planning - weed control & management of natural landscapes

- ◆ Establishment of a data management system
- ◆ More targeted and effective weed control strategies
- ◆ Incorporation of maintenance and renewal of natural landscapes

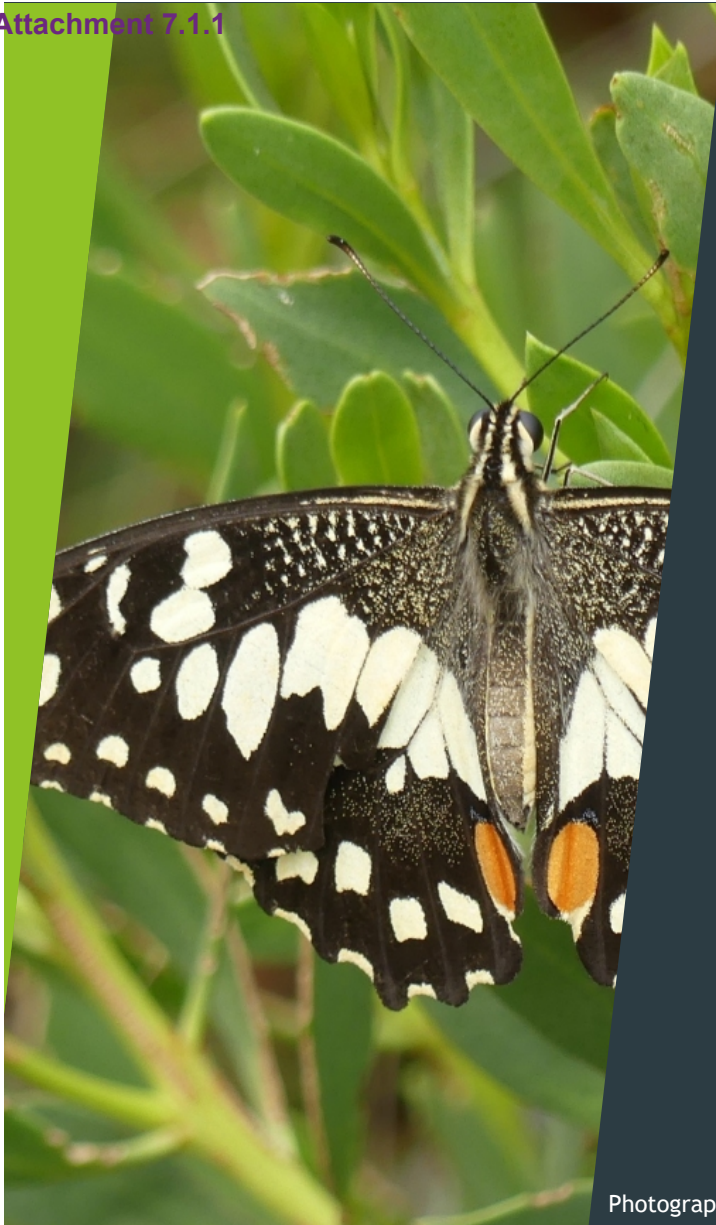


Photograph by Sam Ryan

7. Kurna engagement and Aboriginal Land Management

- ◆ Increased involvement of Kurna knowledge, practices and enterprise
- ◆ Cool burning for cultural preservation, ecological benefits and reduction of bushfire risk
- ◆ Partnering with local communities to contribute towards reconciliation efforts

Photograph by Sam Ryan



8. Threatened species protection & restoration

- ◆ Reintroduction of extinct and threatened plant and animals species
- ◆ Partnering with Green Adelaide, State Herbarium and specialist ecologists

Photograph by Matt Endacott

9. Integration of Biodiversity through urban design and major developments

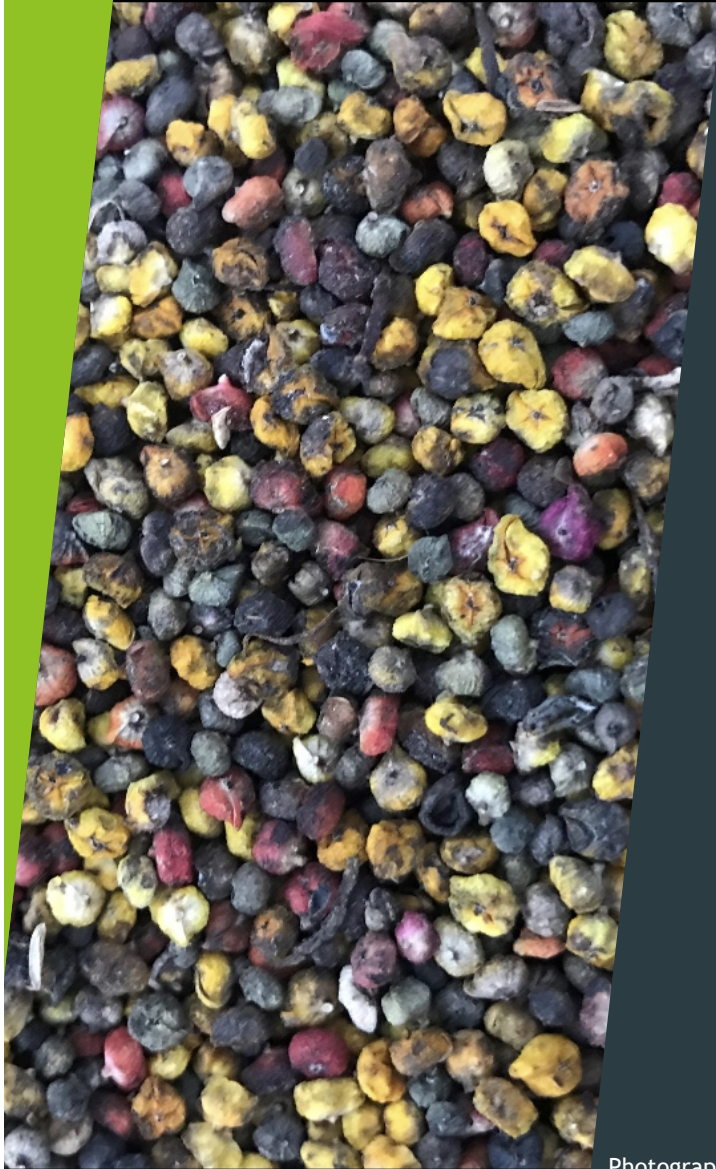
- ◆ Advocate for “nature positive” design
- ◆ Stronger direction to consider Biodiversity at the beginning of projects.

Photograph by Svetlana Cook

10. Climate resilience in biodiversity

- ◆ Ensuring that biodiversity is managed to reduce bushfire risk
- ◆ Provide refuge for fauna during extreme weather events
- ◆ Allowing retreat and adaptation of habitat types that might be threatened by sea level rise

Photograph by Jacob Lemon



11. Supporting commercial production of locally native plants

- ◆ Improving local native plants options
- ◆ Local provenance native seed

Photograph by Jacob Lemon



Partnerships

- ◆ Green Adelaide
- ◆ State Herbarium & Threatened Species
- ◆ Department of Environment & Water
- ◆ City of Marion Environment Groups
- ◆ Trees for Life
- ◆ Resilient South

Proposed timeframes

Stage	Who	Timing
Initial drafting and technical consideration	Key CoM staff	Jan - June 2023
Test scope and directions	Environment Committee	June 2023
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Draft plan for public consultation	General Council	October 2023
Public Consultation	Key Stakeholders (government partners, community groups, technical specialists) Community (Making Marion)	November 2023
Final Draft	Key CoM staff	Dec 2023 - Jan 2024
Final Biodiversity Plan endorsement and funding commitment	General Council	Feb 2024
Implementation (five years)	CoM administration	1 July 2024 - 30 June 2029

Service Level Options

Option 1 - \$450,000

- ◆ Similar to current plan, with a small expansion of priority & opportunity sites.

Option 2 - \$650,000

- ◆ Larger expansion of current priority and opportunity sites.
- ◆ Improved weed mapping and biodiversity monitoring.

Option 3 - \$800,000

- ◆ Significant expansion and connecting of priority and opportunity sites including high traffic locations.
- ◆ Kaurua land management project.
- ◆ Additional natural landscaping sites.



Open Discussion

7.2 Resilient South Update

Report Reference	EC230606R7.2
Originating Officer	Senior Environmental Planner – Rebecca Neumann
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment – Mathew Allen
General Manager	General Manager City Services – Ben Keen

REPORT HISTORY

Report Reference	Report Title
GC121217R13	Sector Agreement for Climate Change Adaptation for the Southern Adelaide Region 2017 – 2020
GC120313R03	Southern Region (Metropolitan Adelaide) Sector Agreement (pursuant to the <i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i>)

REPORT OBJECTIVE

To provide an update to the Environment Committee on the current activities of the Resilient South regional climate partnership.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resilient South partnership between the South Australian Government and the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham, and Onkaparinga was created in recognition that not all impacts of climate change can be avoided and that local governments would benefit from working together to respond to climate threats. Climate partnerships representing other parts of Adelaide (AdaptWest, Resilient East, and Resilient Hills and Coasts) undertake similar work and together with a Central Coordinator of climate partnerships hosted by the Local Government Association, work with Resilient South to ensure climate policy and action is promulgated across Adelaide.

The main emphasis for the last six months has been the renewal of a Sector Agreement to provide a formal foundation for the partnership, and the development of a new Regional Climate Action Plan (ReCAP) to provide strategic direction. Major continuing priorities are the integration of climate risk into Council asset and risk management frameworks, community development and improved tree canopy data and urban forest management.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

- 1. Notes the update on Resilient South provided by Regional Coordinator Stefan Caddy-Retalic.**
- 2. Provides feedback for the upcoming review of the Resilient South Sector Agreement and Regional Climate Action Plan (ReCAP).**

DISCUSSION

The Resilient South regional climate partnership is coordinated by the Resilient South Regional Coordinator, Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic, who is hosted at the City of Marion but works across all four partner councils. This position is entirely funded by Green Adelaide through the Landscape Levy

(formerly NRM Levy). The Regional Coordinator is supported by and reports to a Management Committee comprised of representatives from the four councils and the state government. The main tasks for Resilient South over the last six months have been:

1. Renewal of the Resilient South Sector Agreement

Historically, the Resilient South partnership has been formally recognised through a Sector Agreement signed by the four partner councils and the state government pursuant to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*. Resilient South has been operating without a formal agreement since the last Sector Agreement expired in 2019. The lack of a current agreement does not prevent Resilient South from operating; but an agreement demonstrates the partnership is recognised by all parties and is useful in obtaining funding from the state government or other sources. A new Sector Agreement has been given in principle support from the Deputy Premier and has been endorsed by the chambers at the Cities of Holdfast Bay, Mitcham, and Onkaparinga. The new Sector Agreement (attached) will be provided to Council for endorsement on 13 June 2023, with a signing event to be held later in the year.

2. Development of a new Regional Climate Action Plan

In order to give direction to the Resilient South partnership, including identifying priority actions, areas for development and opportunities to seek external investment, Resilient South has embarked on the development of a new Regional Climate Action Plan (ReCAP). Partner council funding of \$30,000 (made up of contributions from each of the councils) and an additional \$99,000 grant from the Commonwealth government has been used to undertake an extensive consultation process including community surveys and targeted workshops with staff, elected members (event at Mitchell Park Community Centre 8 March 2023), young people, local businesses, and the Kaurna community. A draft ReCAP is currently being refined and will be provided to Council members for further feedback June/ July and is expected to be finalised by October 2023 for endorsement by the partner councils.

3. Community education and capacity building

The Resilient South partner councils continue to deliver a busy schedule of community workshops and events to raise community awareness and capacity to deal with climate impacts. Upcoming workshops include a series of online workshops on sustainable homes, buying green power and electric vehicles. Resilient South has also produced a complementary series of fact sheets that are available on the Resilient South website and will be distributed through partner councils.

4. Embedding climate risk into council frameworks

The Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP) is a flagship project that is integrating climate risk into the management of more than \$5B in assets managed by the Resilient South partner councils. The City of Marion is initially focusing on understanding the climate risk to its roads and major buildings (complementing work by Holdfast Bay, Mitcham and Onkaparinga on open space and coastal assets, bridges, and stormwater assets respectively). The City of Marion is also planning to undertake a whole of organisation risk assessment for operations, assets and services that enables the identification of priority risks across all functions within council. Further information on this project will be presented through Council's Finance, Risk and Audit Committee in 2023/2024.

5. Urban Forest Management

Managing urban trees to be resilient to climate threats and grow our canopy to reduce urban heat impacts is a major challenge. Resilient South councils have coordinated negotiations with SA Power Networks to limit the impacts of restrictions of powerline clearance regulations and continue to work together to improve the management of our trees. The Future Trees Project, a collaborative initiative based at the University of Adelaide focused on

benchmarking Adelaide's public urban forest and increasing the tree species palette available to council arborists, is also led by the Resilient South Regional Coordinator.

6. Regional Coordination

The Resilient South partnership is recognised as a leader in climate adaptation work in South Australia. Much of this value comes from the sharing of information between partner councils and with external bodies, particularly through the broader climate partnership network. Recent outcomes of this broader network include the establishment of Communities of Practice for both Resilient Housing and Climate Risk, as well as the imminent delivery of new urban heat and airborne LiDAR canopy mapping data. The productivity of Resilient South was a major driver behind the Local Government Association's nomination of Dr Caddy-Retalic as their preferred candidate to the Premier's Climate Change Council this month.

Key upcoming dates for Resilient South:

Upcoming event	Expected date
Sector Agreement to be provided to General Council for endorsement	13 June 2023
Draft ReCAP to be provided to Council Members for feedback	June / July 2023
Final ReCAP to be provided to General Council for endorsement	October 2023

For Environment Committee Discussion

- Any questions / comments about the Resilient South partnership and governance?
- Any questions about the Sector Agreement?
- Any questions about the priorities for Resilient South, including the ReCAP?

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - Resilient South Sector Agreement Final 2023 [7.2.1 - 10 pages]
2. Resilient South Environment Committee Presentation - June2023 [7.2.2 - 12 pages]

CLIMATE CHANGE SECTOR AGREEMENT

For the Southern Adelaide Region 2023-2028

Pursuant to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*

BETWEEN

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

and

CITY OF MARION

and

CITY OF MITCHAM

and

CITY OF ONKAPARINGA

and

THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

THIS AGREEMENT is made the [] day of [] 2023

BETWEEN

- (1) the Minister for Environment and Water (the Minister) on behalf of the Government of South Australia
- and
- (2) the Southern Adelaide region, consisting of the following bodies: the City of Holdfast Bay, the City of Marion, the City of Mitcham and the City of Onkaparinga.

The parties listed under (2) are jointly referred to as the 'Resilient South Regional Partners'.

It is acknowledged that other key entities (from both public and private sectors) within the region may join the Resilient South Regional Partners in the future. If this eventuates, the Agreement may be reviewed and amended accordingly.

This Agreement builds on the previous *Sector Agreement for Climate Change Adaptation for the Southern Adelaide Region*, signed on 7 February 2018 and expired on 30 June 2020.

1 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Climate Change Sector Agreement (the Agreement) between the Government of South Australia and the Resilient South Regional Partners acknowledges the importance of the partnership and cooperative work between the signatories in responding to climate change and pursuing sustainability and climate resilience.

The Resilient South Regional Partners, with the support of the Government of South Australia, aim to reduce emissions and improve the resilience of the region's communities, assets and infrastructure, local economies and natural environment to cope with the inevitable impacts and challenges of climate change in the short, medium and long term, through the development and implementation of climate change actions and initiatives.

This Agreement:

- Acknowledges a joint commitment on the part of the signatories to **collectively respond to climate change** by reducing emissions, managing risk, harnessing opportunities, adapting and building resilience.
- Articulates a **common goal amongst the signatories** to implement emissions reduction and climate change response planning, programs and actions as resources allow, in a cooperative, co-ordinated and consultative manner in the region; and
- Will enable an integrated approach whereby signatories provide strategic direction for the region in tackling climate change in alignment with council, state and regional strategic priorities.
- Has, as its key focus, **response to the impacts, risks, and opportunities of climate change** in the region –in alignment with identified strategic priorities, via:
 - setting agreed objectives;

- joint commitment to collaborative and timely implementation of climate change actions, and their ongoing evaluation and review; and
- cooperatively identifying and progressing partnership opportunities between partners and across sectors within the region, to assist with implementation of climate change actions and initiatives.

2 THE REGION

For the purpose of this Agreement, the Southern Adelaide Region (the region) is aligned with the boundaries of the Council areas of Holdfast Bay, Marion, Mitcham and Onkaparinga (see map at Addendum 1).

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A Regional Adaptation Plan for the Resilient South region was completed in 2014 and adopted by each Resilient South Regional Partner. A subsequent *Southern Region Local Government Implementation Plan 2015-2019* was developed and adopted in 2015.
- 3.2 The Government of South Australia's *Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia*, released in August 2019, includes a policy direction for the state government to support South Australian communities, industries, businesses and the environment to manage risk, harness opportunities, adapt and build resilience to climate change.
- 3.3 *South Australia's Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities* report released in September 2020 is informing the government's response on mitigation and adaptation including carbon farming, climate data and information, more efficient water use and adapting agriculture.
- 3.4 The *South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021 – 2025* describes government-led objectives and actions to help to build a strong, climate smart economy, further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support South Australia to adapt to a changing climate. One of the actions in the Action Plan is to support Regional Climate Partnerships to deliver local adaptation and mitigation projects.
- 3.5 The Government of South Australia seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate within the State. The state government has set goals to reduce South Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions by more than 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- 3.6 Each of the regional partner councils has developed corporate climate change plans and strategies, including:
 - City of Onkaparinga Climate Change Action Plan 2022-27
 - City of Marion *Climate Change Policy and Carbon Neutral Plan 2020-2030*;
 - City of Holdfast Bay *Environment Strategy 2020-2025*;
 - City of Mitcham 2020-2031 [Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Pathways](#) & 2020-2023 *Climate Adaptation Pathways*.
- 3.7 The Minister and Resilient South Regional Partners have entered into this Agreement under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, in order to:

Regional Sector Agreement - Resilient South 2023-2028

- Facilitate geographically specific responses to climate change, whilst also recognising differences across the region
- Work together to support a better understanding of climate change risks and opportunities for communities, business and the natural environment
- Facilitate community and business engagement and participation in programs designed to assist with emissions reduction and promote climate change resilience
- Explore the potential for joint projects and partnerships, and Australian government and other funding opportunities
- Promote and showcase achievements as a template for other regions of South Australia and Australia
- Identify and promote resilient, low emissions and climate smart economic and employment opportunities within the region; and
- Provide relevant information to key service providers to help them reduce emissions, build resilience, adapt, manage risk and exploit opportunities.

4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 This Agreement includes Schedule 1 outlining Priority Deliverables and Focus Areas for the Regional Partners. Signatories will endeavour to review, update and undertake the actions outlined in the Schedule, as resources allow.
- 4.2 The Agreement complements and supports key state-wide climate change policies and programs, including: The achievement of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007* (the Act);
- The Government of South Australia's [Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia](#) policy statement, and priorities outlined in the [South Australia's Climate Change Challenges and Opportunities report](#);
 - The [South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021 – 2025](#); and
 - [Stronger Together – South Australia's Disaster Resilience Strategy](#).
- 4.3 This Agreement complements and supports the strategies and corporate climate change plans of each of the local government signatories.
- 4.4 While specific responses to climate change may vary across the region, this Agreement aims to facilitate a cooperative approach across the region to identify and address elements of common interest and benefit, recognising that responses may need to represent the interests of specific communities.

5 THIS SECTOR AGREEMENT DOES NOT CREATE LEGALLY BINDING OBLIGATIONS

- 5.1 This Agreement does not create any legally binding contract between the parties and does not give rise to any legally binding obligations.
- 5.2 The signatories may amend priority focus areas (as outlined in Schedule 1) by written agreement at any time.

6 GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Regional Sector Agreement - Resilient South 2023-2028

- 6.1 The Resilient South Management Committee (the Committee) will continue to oversee Resilient South and will include representatives from each of the signatory parties.
- 6.2 The Committee will determine its own Terms of Reference.
- 6.3 The Committee will establish criteria to measure progress on this Agreement and regional plan/s.
- 6.4 The Committee may establish sub-groups as required to support the objectives of this Agreement.
- 6.5 The Committee will provide regular (i.e. minimum of annual) progress reports to all signatories.

7 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 Pursuant to this Agreement, the Resilient South Regional Partners undertake to:
 - 7.1.1 Participate in Committee activities, consistent with the priorities outlined in Schedule 1;
 - 7.1.2 Promote the Resilient South objectives internally and to relevant stakeholders;
 - 7.1.3 Ensure consistency with relevant local, state and Australian government climate change strategies;
 - 7.1.4 Prioritise opportunities to implement climate change projects on a regional scale where it is more efficient and practical than doing so on a council by council basis;
 - 7.1.5 Contribute in a timely fashion to reviews of all key program deliverables; and
 - 7.1.6 Continue to explore opportunities for joint and external funding and resourcing, including for the Resilient South Regional Coordinator role.
- 7.2 Pursuant to this Agreement, the Government of South Australia undertakes to:
 - 7.2.1 Promote Resilient South objectives and achievements internally and to relevant stakeholders;
 - 7.2.2 Collaborate on initiatives that support the Government's *Directions for a Climate Smart South Australia* and the *South Australian Government Climate Change Action Plan 2021 – 2025*, including exploring funding opportunities and sharing state-wide learnings regarding climate change response initiatives;
 - 7.2.3 Support, as appropriate, the development of any relevant funding proposals to the Australian Government or other funding bodies, and partnership opportunities;
 - 7.2.4 Ensure that briefings and advice are provided to the Committee on state and national policy developments and discussions, as required and relevant to this Agreement; and
 - 7.2.5 Provide opportunities to the Committee to consider and provide input into the review and development of relevant state projects, programs, policies, strategies and frameworks.

8 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

- 8.1 All existing and yet to be developed intellectual property created under the direction of the Committee, including but not limited to, the Resilient South logo and logo block, and branding

Regional Sector Agreement - Resilient South 2023-2028

materials, shall be jointly owned by Resilient South Regional Partners and the Crown in right of the Government of South Australia. As co-owners of copyright material, the parties agree that each party may use or exercise their copyright rights (such as use of the logo and logo block and branding materials, communicating the material to the public or sub-contracting of licensing others to do so) without the consent of the other parties, so long as the activity is aligned with the purpose of this Agreement, and is not to the detriment of any other party.

9 DURATION OF THIS AGREEMENT

- 9.1 The Agreement shall continue from the date on which it is made until 30 June 2028.
- 9.2 The Agreement can be amended or extended on an as needs basis, with the written agreement of the signatories.
- 9.3 Any party can seek to withdraw from the Agreement by providing 30 days written notice to the other signatory parties.
- 9.4 The Committee will review this Agreement three months prior to its expiration and provide recommendations for future action to the signatories.
- 9.5 The Schedule within the Agreement may be reviewed and updated by the Committee.

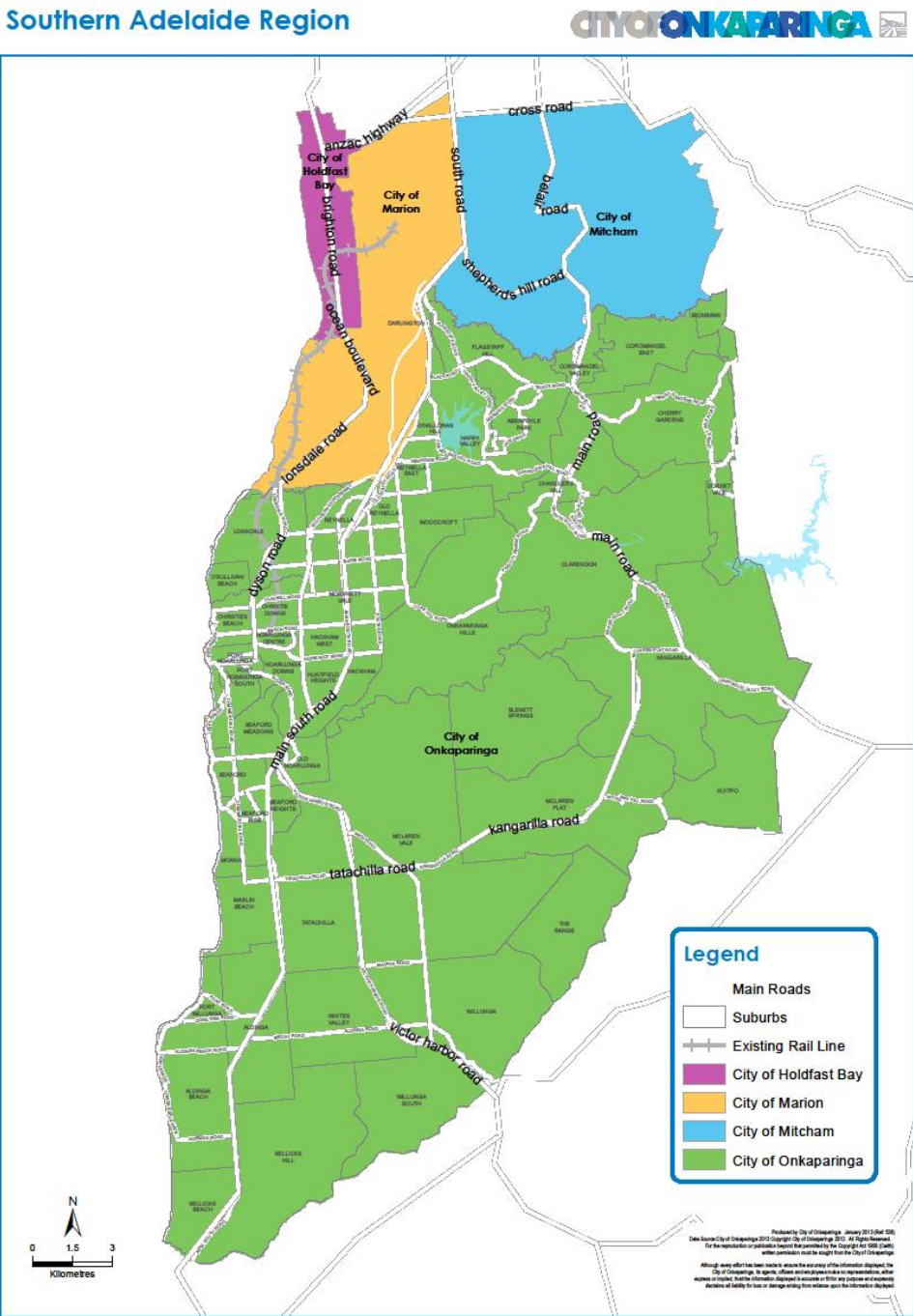
Southern Adelaide Region Sector Agreement

(Pursuant to the Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007)

AMANDA WILSON
MAYOR	
CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY	Date ____/____/____
 KRIS HANNA	
MAYOR	
CITY OF MARION	Date ____/____/____
 HEATHER HOLMES-ROSS	
MAYOR	
CITY OF MITCHAM	Date ____/____/____
 MOIRA WERE	
MAYOR	
CITY OF ONKAPARINGA	Date ____/____/____
 HON SUSAN CLOSE MP	
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND WATER	Date ____/____/____

ADDENDUM 1

Map of the Southern Adelaide Region, showing council boundaries



SCHEDULE 1. Priority Deliverables and Focus Areas for the Southern Adelaide Region

Deliverable	Action
Regional climate change planning	Work together to review the existing <i>Resilient South Local Government Implementation Plan</i> and develop a new Regional Climate Action Plan.
Mainstreaming	Support the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation into everyday council, state government and business operations and long-term decision making.
Information sharing	Ensure relevant information is provided to partners, stakeholders and the community; including national developments and learnings from other regions.
Monitoring and evaluation	Monitor, evaluate and report on the effectiveness of Resilient South projects and initiatives.
Focus Area	Action
Climate risk	Invest in understanding and responding to the physical, legal, financial, social and transitional risks associated with climate change.
Emissions reduction	Work collaboratively to support corporate and community emissions reduction.
Coastal management	Support regional coastal monitoring and adaptation.
Community Health and Resilience	Support communities to acquire the skills, systems, technologies and behaviours required to respond and adapt.

Resilient Assets	Invest in infrastructure and assets that deliver adaptation benefits such as shading, cool spaces, effective water management, promotion of urban biodiversity and ecosystem services, erosion control, flood and bushfire mitigation etc.
Resilient towns and suburbs	Promote climate resilient urban development and renewal, such as passive solar housing, public transport and walkability, renewable energy, urban greening, etc.
Natural Environments	Invest in building the adaptive capacity of our natural environments.
Business and Economic Development	Support the local and regional business communities to reduce emissions, manage risks and capitalise on opportunities associated with climate change; and develop economic opportunities within the region.
Climate hazard mapping	Monitor and respond to the impacts of climate change in the region such as heat, flood, bushfire, sea-level-rise etc.

Resilient South Update City of Marion Environment Committee

Dr Stefan Caddy-Retalic
Regional Coordinator, Resilient South
June 2023

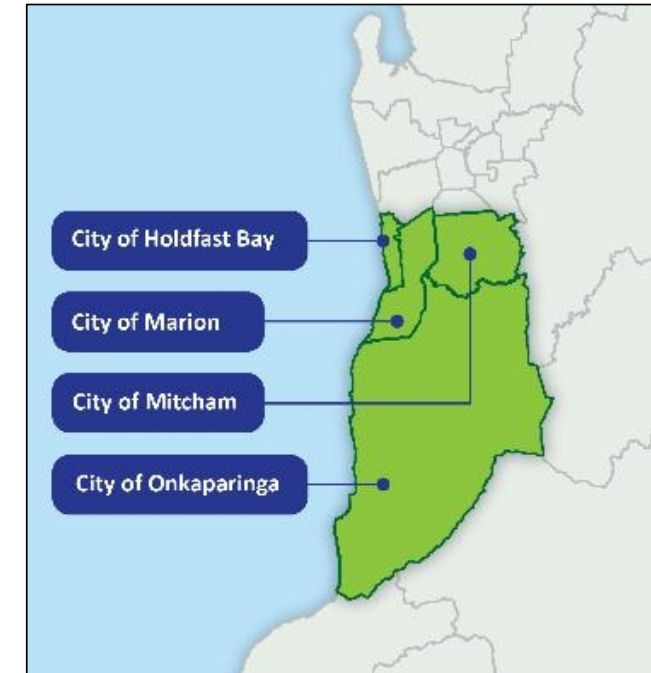


**Government of
South Australia**



Resilient South

- Partners since 2011
- Formal Agreement with State Government (currently due for renewal)
- Led, supported and partnered numerous projects
 - Climate Risk Governance Assessments, Community workshops, Climate Ready Schools, Resilient Asset Management Project and others
- Attracted significant external funding
- Developed Adaptation and Implementation Plans to highlight and tackle climate impacts in our region
- Coordinator funded by Green Adelaide and hosted by City of Marion
 - Available to coordinate regional projects and provide expertise to Councils as needed
- Work with other partnerships (AdaptWest, Resilient East, Resilient Hills & Coasts)



Sector Agreement



Flagship 1: Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP)

Assets need to be resilient to climate change and are a key contributor to regional resilience in an uncertain future:

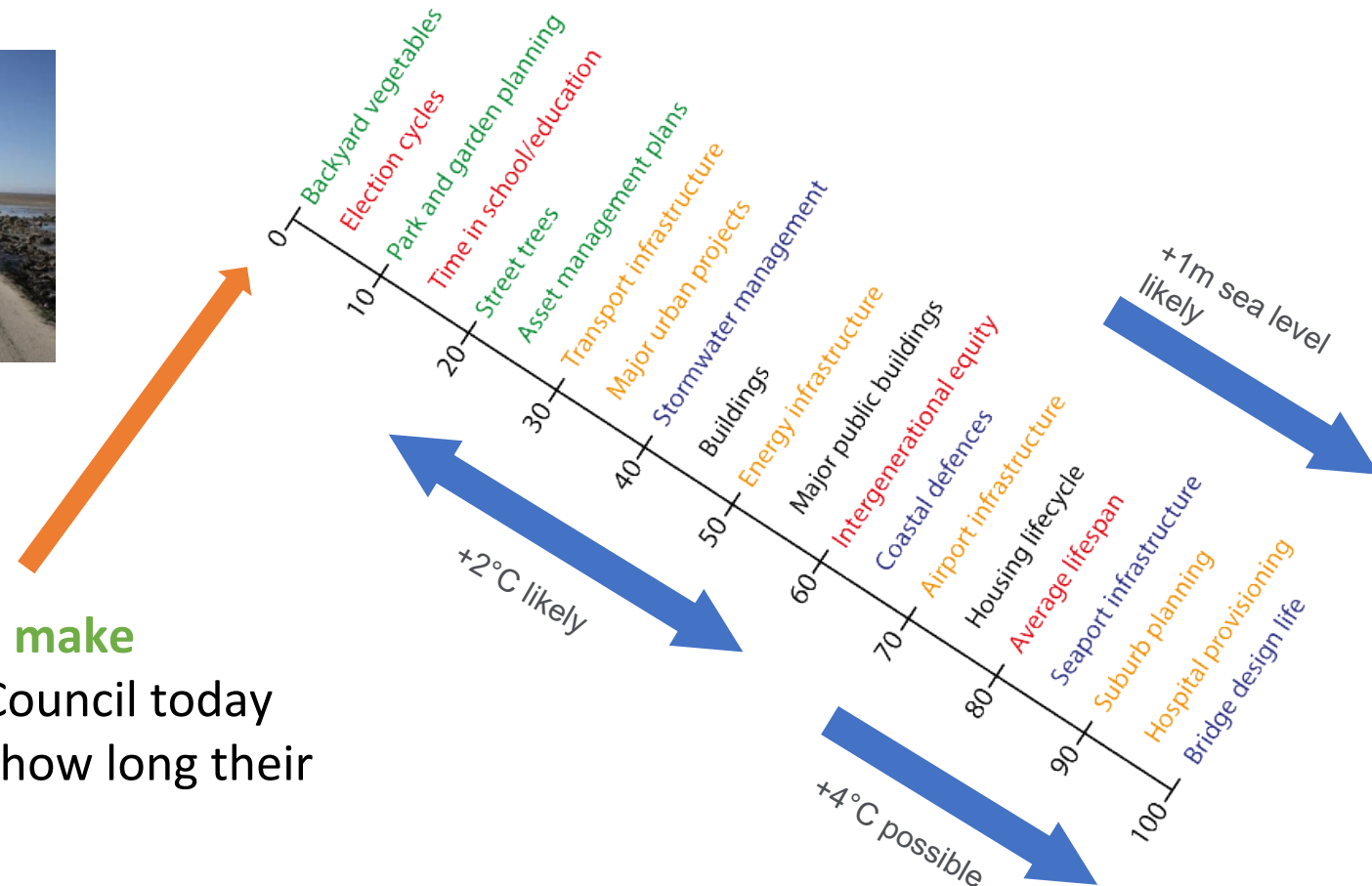
- Should we build this asset?
- How can we build the asset to give us flexibility?
- How do we make existing assets more resilient?
- Which assets are at the most risk?
- How do we pay for building better assets, maintaining assets and retrofitting assets?



Flagship 1: Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP)



The **decisions YOU make**
on behalf of your Council today
MUST account for how long their
effects will be felt

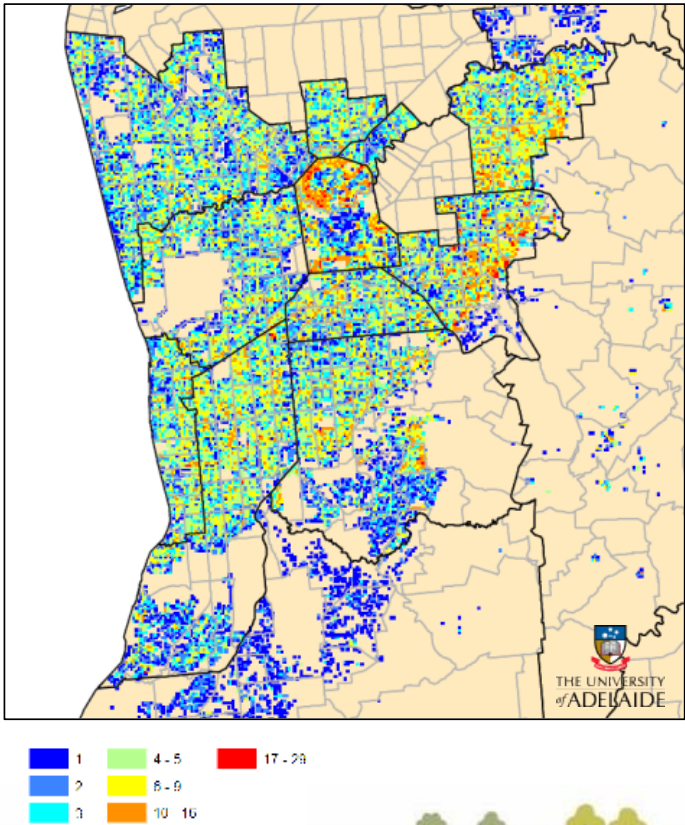


Stafford Smith *et al.* 2011 (after Jones & McInnes 2004)

Flagship 1: Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP)

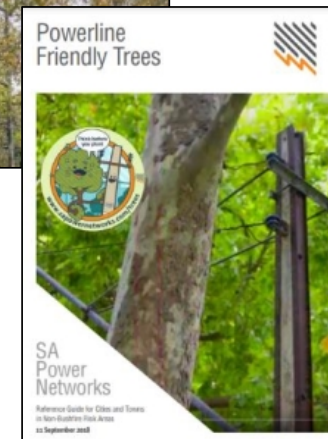


Flagship 2: Future Trees Project



Flagship 2: Future Trees Project

- SA Power Networks are responsible for maintaining powerline clearances
- *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021* stipulates only trees on a permitted list may be planted near lines
- Future Trees project is identifying exemplars of species/cultivars that can be presented in an evidence portfolio to be added to the permitted list
- More species/cultivars increases options for council arborists and the diversity of our public urban forest.

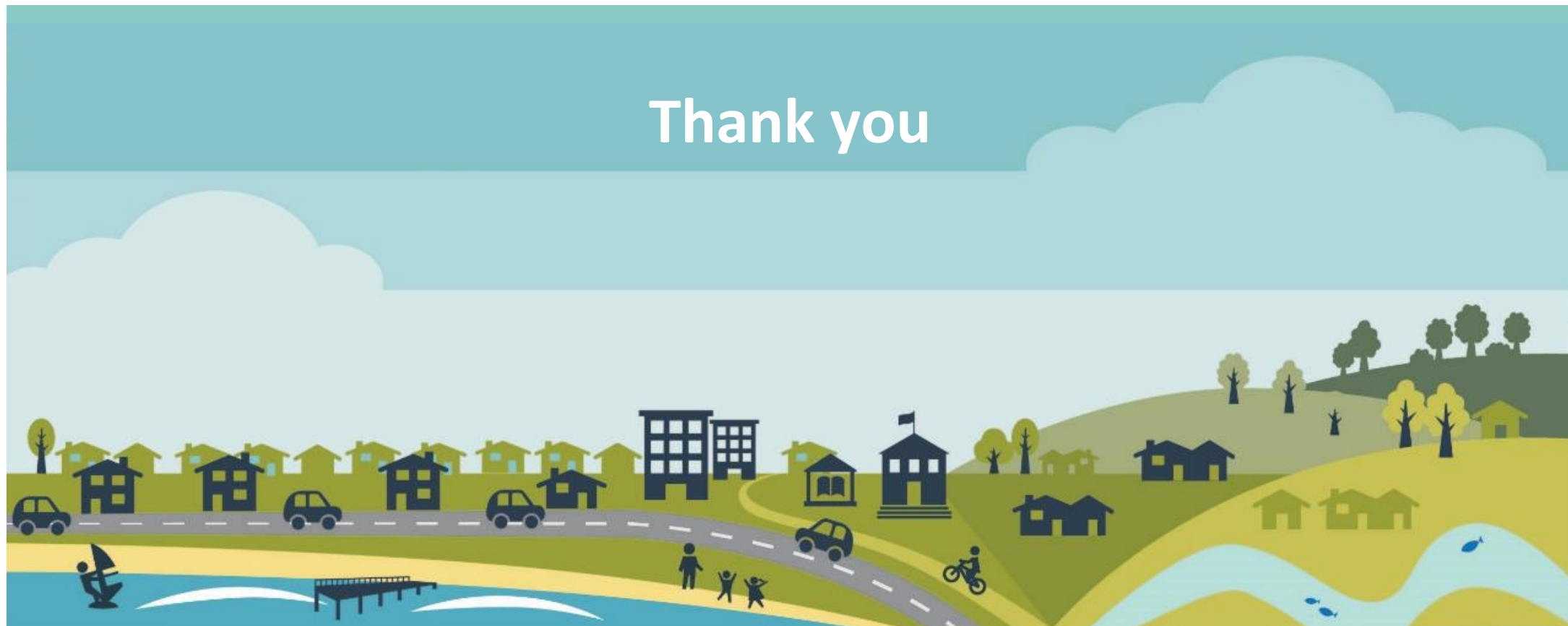


Regional Climate Action Plan (ReCAP)

- Prioritise focus of Resilient South for the next five years
- Replaces previous plan (expired in 2019)
- Incorporates feedback from elected members (March workshop), council staff, community surveys and focused workshops with small businesses and young people.
- Supported from Council operating funds (\$6k from Marion, \$24k from other councils) and a Commonwealth grant (\$99k)
- Mix of priority areas and key projects
- Draft ReCAP to be provided to elected members in June, envisaged ratification by early October.



Thank you



Government of
South Australia



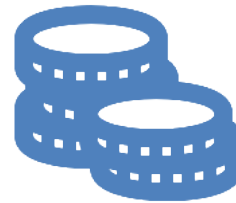
Regional Climate Action Plan (ReCAP)



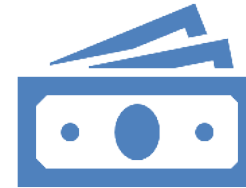
Implement
shared
regional
priorities



Access best
practice
knowledge
& tools



Minimise
duplication
& cost



Accelerate
action with
external
funding &
resources



Align with
State, sector
& regional
priorities



8 Reports for Noting - Nil**9 Workshop / Presentation Items - Nil****10 Other Business****11 Meeting Closure**

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.