



# Sustainability and Environmental Action Plan

2024 – 2028





# Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Bunbury acknowledges the traditional owners of the land, the Noongar Wardandi people and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.



# Contents

**Contents 2**

**Accessibility 2**

**Introduction 3**

**How this plan was developed 4**

**Reporting on progress 4**

**How to read the action plan 4**

**Governance 4**

**Energy and Emissions 6**

**Sustainable Water 7**

**Circular Economy and Waste 8**

**Sustainable Transport and Urban Infrastructure 9**

**Greening and Biodiversity 10**

**Climate Resilience 12**

**Community, Culture and Wellbeing 13**

**How to get involved 15**

## Accessibility

If you require the information within this document in an accessible format, such as large print or audio, please contact the City of Bunbury on 9792 7000 or email [info@bunbury.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@bunbury.wa.gov.au).







## Introduction

**Welcome to the City of Bunbury's Sustainability and Environmental Action Plan 2024-2028. The purpose of the action plan is to address the Sustainability and Environmental Strategy 2023-2028 commitments.**

The action plan provides the City with operational actions to support the achievement of the desired outcomes, targets and objectives outlined in the City's [Sustainability and Environmental Strategy 2023-2028](#).

It provides actions for eight key focus areas:

- Governance
- Energy and emissions
- Sustainable water
- Circular economy and waste
- Sustainable transport and urban infrastructure
- Greening and biodiversity
- Climate resilience
- Community, culture and wellbeing

The action plan will be used to inform the City's Corporate Business Plan, Long Term Financial Plan and Annual Budgets for the period 2024-2028.

It is intended that the action plan is flexible and is reviewed and updated annually to ensure it reflects the changing environment of the City, community priorities, the broader region, emerging technologies and the latest climate science.

## How this plan was developed

The development of the action plan has involved collaborative engagement and participation from staff across the organisation and engagement with members of the City's Climate Action and Sustainability Working Group (CASWG). The City undertook a series of internal workshops in 2024 to identify and define actions best suited to address the strategy's commitments, along with establishing responsibilities, estimated cost of implementation and timeframes. The draft action plan was reviewed by the CASWG and updated to reflect the feedback received.

## Reporting on progress

The progress and performance of the strategy and action plan will be monitored annually and reported to Council at the end of each financial year. The community will be updated on the delivery of actions and progress toward targets through an annual report and community engagement initiatives.

## How to read the action plan

The action plan includes new and existing high-priority actions for addressing the [Sustainability and Environmental Strategy 2023-2028](#). For further information regarding all other expenditure including reoccurring actions please see the Annual Budget and Long-Term Financial Plan at [www.bunbury.wa.gov.au](http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au).

The action plan uses the same format as the City's Corporate Business Plan to communicate actions. It lists the strategy's desired outcomes and objectives within the focus area. Actions are listed in no particular order. Each action is supported by accompanying information, including responsible department for completing the action, funding and the indicative financial year for action. Please see the table legend below for an explanation of symbols used.

### Table Legend

- ✓ Planned for financial year indicated but does not require funding.
- \* Additional funding is required or some of project funding is dependent on sources external to the City of Bunbury.
- \*\* Refer to the City's Annual Budgets for operational funds.

## Desired Outcome:

The City of Bunbury is a leader in sustainability and considers the environment, community, culture and economy in all decision-making processes.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
1.1 Ensure the City's governance practices support improved sustainability outcomes.	Research and develop criteria for prioritising high social and economic impact projects in the development of City land.	Economic Growth		✓			
1.2 Improve the sustainability outcomes of the City's procurement process and supply chain.	Provide support to the Mayor and CEO to advocate for sustainability and climate action, including developing an advocacy flyer with key priorities to provide to State and Federal representatives.	Economic Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.3 Ensure sustainability is considered for all new City projects and policies.	Continue to operate the Climate Action and Sustainability Working Group (CASWG) to improve collaboration between the City and community on sustainability within Bunbury.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services		✓	✓	✓	
1.4 Communicate, monitor and evaluate the City's progress in sustainability performance.	Continue to participate in the SWALGA Partnership: Towards Net Zero facilitated by Regional Development Australia South West to foster collaboration and alliances on a regional level.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.5 Seek opportunities to knowledge build and collaborate on sustainability outcomes with key stakeholders, local government networks and working groups.	Continue to liaise with LEMA, DBCA and Southern Ports on areas outside of the City's land on bushfire mitigation activities and land management.	Community Wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Add a line item to the City's Procurement Plan that recommends requesting Officers consider sustainability principles when planning a procurement.	Procurement	✓	✓			
1.6 Advocate on behalf of the community on areas that are outside of the City's control.	Collaborate with the Natural Environment and Sustainability Team to develop a Sustainability Compliance Item and qualitative criteria to be incorporated into the City's procurement offer form.	Procurement		✓			
	Collaborate with the Natural Environment and Sustainability Team to research and develop a tool to assess sustainability considerations for City of Bunbury concepts and projects.	Integrated Planning		✓			

# Energy and Emissions

## Desired Outcome:

- Reduced fossil fuel derived energy used by the City and the community through increased energy efficiency and renewable energy use.
- Significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from energy used by the City's operations.
- The community is supported to implement energy efficiency measures and adopt renewable energy technologies.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
2.1 Maximise energy efficiency of City-owned lighting, buildings and operations.	Undertake an energy audit of large City owned buildings and develop a Renewables and Energy Reduction Framework.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	\$107,780				
2.2 Transition City-owned buildings to renewable energy and electrification.	Upgrade appliances, lights and equipment in City owned buildings as recommended in the Renewables and Energy Reduction Framework annually.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	\$100,000	**	**	**	
2.3 Support and promote energy efficiency within the community and local businesses.	Apply for the Federal Government's Community Energy Upgrade Fund Program Round 2 to co-fund energy upgrades prioritised in the Renewables and Energy Reduction Framework.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services		\$200,000	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
2.4 Support and promote the transition to renewable energy and electrification within the community and local businesses.	Continue to increase the efficiency of City-owned public lighting and streetlighting annually, ensuring that National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife are followed.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	**	**	**	**	
	Participate in Phase 2 of the WALGA Sustainable Energy Project to continue purchasing natural power for the City's contestable sites.	Infrastructure		✓			
2.5 Measure the City's corporate emissions profile and monitor progress in reducing emissions.	Support energy providers to implement community batteries and renewable energy projects within the City of Bunbury by providing planning advice on proposals and letters of support for funding applications.	Economic Growth /City Planning	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.6 Seek opportunities to collaborate on emissions reduction and capture with key stakeholders and adjoining local governments.	Develop an annual report that details the City's annual corporate emissions, its progress towards emission reduction targets and provides a net zero trajectory and planned actions.	Projects and Asset Management		\$18,173	\$18,173	\$18,173	

**Note: Actions that support and promote sustainable practices within the community can be found in the 'Community, Culture and Wellbeing' focus area.**



# Sustainable Water

## Desired Outcomes:

- Improved efficient use of scheme water and groundwater used by the City's operations and the community.
- Increased use of alternative (fit-for-purpose) water sources.
- Increased water sensitive urban designs.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
3.1 Maximise water efficiency in City owned buildings and operations.	Work towards achieving the Water Corporation's Waterwise Council Program endorsement.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services		✓	✓	✓	
3.2 Utilise alternative (fit-for-purpose) water sources for City operations and irrigation where possible.	Upgrade water fittings, fixtures and appliances in City-owned buildings to best practice standards annually.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	**	**	**	**	
3.3 Support and promote sustainable water management and efficiency within the community, local businesses and educational and health institutions.	Support Aqwest in the implementation of the Bunbury Water Resource Recovery Scheme through optimising the use of recycled water on Public Open Space.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services		✓	✓	✓	
3.4 Support and promote the use of alternative (fit-for-purpose) water sources within the community and local businesses.	Undertake Water Sensitive Cities benchmarking assessment to identify the City's current water sensitive performance and diagnose strengths and weaknesses relating to water-sensitive systems and practices.	Projects and Asset Management			✓		
3.5 Expand the City's knowledge and monitoring of water consumption, management and quality.							
3.6 Continue to increase the amount of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives within the City.							
3.7 Increase community education and awareness of sustainable water management.							

**Note: Actions that support and promote sustainable practices within the community can be found in the 'Community, Culture and Wellbeing' focus area.**



# Circular Economy and Waste

## Desired Outcomes:

- A sustainable low waste, circular economy.
- Reduced waste generated and increased resource recovery.
- Reduced landfill and greenhouse gas emissions from landfill.
- Reduced litter and dumping.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
		Funding					
4.1 Avoid and reduce waste generation from the City's projects, operations, events and owned buildings.	Require that a Materials Recycling Plan (requiring receipts) is included within the scope of all City projects where materials are to be dismantled, removed, demolished, etc. to ensure materials are recycled and landfill is the last resort.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services		✓	✓	✓	
4.2 Apply a sustainability and circular economy lens to the renewal, upgrade and construction of City assets and buildings.	Continue to measure and report on the Waste Plan actions and outcomes annually.	Waste Operations	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Develop a guiding technical document that lists the pre-approved sustainable materials/ practices to inform project modelling and planning.	Projects and Asset Management		\$8,450			
4.3 Avoid and reduce community and local business waste generation.	Monitor and increase partnerships within the community to deliver effective waste education programs annually, in line with the Waste Education Plan.	Waste Operations	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.4 Increase resource recovery and reduce contamination within waste streams.	Develop a robust and thoroughly researched Bunbury Harvey Regional Council masterplan and business case for the Stanley Road site initiative that takes into consideration sustainable practices.	Infrastructure		✓	✓		
4.5 Promote and encourage sustainable low-waste private developments.	Increase annual participation in anti-littering initiatives in line with the Waste Education Plan.	Waste Operations	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4.6 Investigate and support the development of new alternative waste technologies.	Report to Council biannually on Elected Members' paper use and cost to encourage Council to reduce paper usage.	Governance		✓	✓	✓	
4.7 Encourage and support litter prevention and clean-up initiatives.							

# Sustainable Transport and Urban Infrastructure

## Desired Outcomes:

- Increased use of active and public transport systems.
- Increased use of renewable energy powered vehicles.
- Increased access to electric vehicle charging stations.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
5.1 Transition to a low and zero-emission vehicle fleet.	Continue to attract electric vehicle charging stations and ride-sharing businesses to Bunbury to support a sustainable visitor economy.	Economic Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5.2 Drive and support the development of electric vehicle fast charging infrastructure in Bunbury.	Develop a Corporate Zero Emissions Fleet Transition Plan.	Infrastructure Business Services	\$33,000				
	Install charging infrastructure for City of Bunbury Corporate Fleet.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services		\$40,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
5.3 Promote and facilitate active lifestyles and public transport use within Bunbury	Continue to expand Principal Shared Paths, footpaths and cycling path networks across the City, linking with City Greening initiatives.	Projects and Asset Management	**	**	**	**	
	Consider sustainability objectives when reviewing Schedule 4 Car Parking Requirements under the Local Planning Scheme No. 8.	Planning and Building		✓	✓	✓	



# Greening and Biodiversity

## Desired Outcomes:

- A natural environment that is cared for, preserved and enhanced.
- Increased tree canopy on public and private land.
- Improved biodiversity rehabilitation and protection.
- Improved public open space and park amenity.
- Biosecurity threats are minimised, identified, and managed.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
6.1 Improve our understanding, management and monitoring of natural areas, public open space and urban canopy.	Continue to manage and undertake remediation of the City's contaminated sites and develop a Contaminated Sites Strategy to prioritise contaminated sites investigations and management actions.	Projects and Asset Management	**	**	**	**	
	Collaborate with the City Planning team to research the viability of implementing tree retention mechanisms as part of the Local Planning Framework.	Projects and Asset Management			*		
6.2 Protect, promote and facilitate the enhancement of Bunbury's urban forest and biodiversity.	Investigate the benefits of developing a Local Biodiversity Strategy and liaise with the City's Planning team to determine the project delivery.	Projects and Asset Management		✓			
6.3 Identify and prioritise locally significant natural areas to achieve the greening and biodiversity desired outcomes and targets.	Develop a Pest Fauna Management Plan to improve pest control outcomes in Bunbury and review annually.	Projects and Asset Management		✓	✓		
	Apply a sustainability lens to the Verge Treatment Policy and review, update and promote the policy and guideline annually.	Projects and Asset Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6.4 Apply a framework that promotes sustainability outcomes for the City's landscaping projects and natural area management.	Monitor and report native vegetation and tree loss, retention and offset planting during City infrastructure upgrades and new City developments.	Projects and Asset Management		✓	✓	✓	
	Continue to provide free verge trees to residents through the annual Winter Street Tree Program.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6.5 Increase community education and awareness on the protection and enhancement of natural areas and systems.	Continue to implement the high priority Greening Plan actions annually.	Infrastructure Maintenance Services	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	\$240,000	

6.6 Support and partner with key stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, Knowledge Holders and Elders, to improve the protection and rehabilitation of natural areas, marine ecosystems and local wildlife	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>23-24</b>	<b>24-25</b>	<b>25-26</b>	<b>26-27</b>	<b>Future</b>
	Continue to implement and regularly update the Weed Management Plan which provides a targeted approach to effective and efficient control of weeds on City-managed land.	Projects and Asset Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Develop and apply an Open Space Design Guideline that promotes relevant sustainable objectives and embeds them as best practices into the City's operations and projects.	Projects and Asset Management		✓	✓		
	Continue to support local biodiversity knowledge, environmental awareness and action by supporting local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and educational institutes, including through the 'Habitat Bunbury' grant funding.	Projects and Asset Management	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	
	Continue to operate the Community Environmental Reference Group (CERG) to improve collaboration between the City and the community on bushland management and fauna protection.	Projects and Asset Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Undertake a Public Open Space audit and research to inform the development of a Public Open Space Strategy.	Building and Planning		✓	✓	✓	
	Increase compliance and responsible pet ownership in natural and urban areas through education and monitoring in line with State legislation.	Community Wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Continue to update the City's Bushfire Preparedness brochure annually, to ensure the protection of vegetation and canopy cover on private land.	Community Wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	



# Climate Resilience

## Desired Outcomes:

- An aware and resilient community equipped to respond to natural disasters and emergencies.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
7.1 Improve our understanding of climate change risks and impacts on the City's services, operations, owned buildings, the community, and local businesses.	Collaborate with the Integrated Planning team to undertake a first-pass corporate Climate Change Risk Assessment to better understand climate risks, reduce risk exposure and inform corporate adaptation planning.	Projects and Asset Management			\$8,000		
	Develop an Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) guideline for new City-owned commercial developments, and refurbishment and maintenance upgrades to existing City-owned buildings.	Projects and Asset Management		\$12,890			
7.2 Increase the resilience of the City's services, operations and owned buildings to climate change impacts.	Program manage the implementation of the CHRMAP's Short Term Coastal Action Plan and related actions in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.	Projects and Asset Management	\$15,280	\$282,950	\$339,500	\$111,000	
7.3 Increase the resilience of our natural areas and coastline to the impacts of climate change.	Continue bushfire mitigation activities within City-managed bushland reserves annually in consultation with the Natural Environment and Sustainability Team and DBCA.	Community Wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Support the Bunbury Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, the Local Emergency Management Committee, and distribute educational materials on climate-related risks and preparedness, such as Department of Fire and Emergency Service bushfire information.	Community Wellbeing	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7.4 Increase awareness and communication of climate change risks and impacts to the community and local businesses.	Research and develop safe practices to ensure accessibility to safe spaces at Bunbury Public Library during extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and low-temperature weather.	Community Connection	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Collaborate with existing climate justice projects in Bunbury by participating in engagement and providing City of Bunbury venues for workshops and events.	Projects and Asset Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	

# Community, Culture and Wellbeing

## Desired Outcomes:

- Improved employee and community satisfaction and engagement in sustainability initiatives.
- Higher quality of life.
- More inclusive and equitable communities.

Objectives	Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
8.1 Increase community satisfaction with the City's efforts to transition to a sustainable city.	Collaborate with the Natural Environment and Sustainability Team to research and implement initiatives and innovation to improve the sustainability of City-hosted events.	Place Activation; Community Connection	✓	✓	✓	✓	
8.2 Improve community resilience and liveability through increasing sustainable designs and greenery.	Collaborate with the Community Connection Teams to establish and maintain a Sustainability Hub at the Bunbury Public Library and Koolambidi Woola to share sustainability related information, initiatives and local events.	Projects and Asset Management		✓	✓	✓	
8.3 Increase equitable education and showcasing of sustainability initiatives and innovation within the City.	Update the City's Local Planning Policy for Landscaping to incorporate sustainability and water sensitive urban design principles as minimum development requirements.	Planning and Building		*	*		
	Update the City's Local Planning Policy for Access and Parking to increase provisions for minimum landscaping requirements of endemic species within car parking areas for all commercial developments.	Planning and Building		*	*		
8.4 Empower the community to take a shared leadership approach to sustainability challenges and opportunities.	Collaborate with the Natural Environment and Sustainability team to develop and publish a Guidance Statement that outlines acceptable criteria to achieve the Environmental Sustainable Principles of SPP7 for new developments.	Planning and Building		\$7,130			
	Investigate incentives for low-income households for rooftop solar installation and batteries and report findings to the Executive Leadership team.	Projects and Asset Management			✓	✓	
	Continue to share sustainability-related information, grants and opportunities to community groups through targeted communications.	Community Connection	✓	✓	✓	✓	



Action	Responsible	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	Future
Continue to support community groups and services to increase community cohesion, participation and connection through facilitating programs, collaboration opportunities and partnerships.	Community Connection	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Research and develop educational materials and guidelines to promote sustainability initiatives within households.	Projects and Asset Management		\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Inspire and increase sustainability initiatives and opportunities within the community by hosting, collaborating on and facilitating workshops and educational events annually.	Community Connection/ Projects and Asset Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	

## How to get involved

Want to help build a better, brighter and more sustainable Bunbury?

Please reach out to your Elected Member or the responsible officer at the City of Bunbury to share your thoughts and ideas.

**In person:** 4 Stephen Street, Bunbury, WA, 6230

**Phone:** 9792 7000

**Email:** [mayor@bunbury.wa.gov.au](mailto:mayor@bunbury.wa.gov.au)

[info@bunbury.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@bunbury.wa.gov.au)

**Web:** [www.bunbury.wa.gov.au](http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au)

[City of Bunbury | Sustainability and Environmental Strategy](#)

**Socials:**  