

# NATURAL RESERVES

## Strategy & Action Plan

### 2017 – 2021



#### Vision

To protect and enhance the City's world-class natural reserves today and into the future.



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# Message From The Mayor

The Natural Reserves Strategy is a key strategic document that outlines how the City of Albany and the broader community can improve management of natural reserves across the City by developing an agreed framework and actions that address a wide range of issues impacting natural reserves.

I have lived in Albany most of my life, and along with many of you, I have visited our natural reserves and enjoyed the quality and beauty of the environment with family and friends. We live in one of the most biodiverse hotspots in the world, and our City is known to support one of the highest proportions of flora and fauna species in the State. As a City we have focused on continuing to preserve the 450 reserves in our care that spans 11,500 hectares within the municipality.

Five focus areas - sustainable management; environmental biodiversity; community safety and assets; cultural heritage values; and recreation services and facilities - bring together priorities supporting the City's Community Strategic Plan objective to be 'Clean, Green and Sustainable'.

I urge you to support the City's Natural Reserves Strategy and action plan so that the City of Albany is enabled to support the community's deep love of natural areas and their desire to ensure they are both protected and accessible for everyone's enjoyment.

Albany's natural reserves have been and will continue to be a pristine sanctuary in Western Australia and contribute to making our City a unique place to live, work and visit.

Dennis Wellington  
Mayor



# Introduction

The City of Albany's Natural Reserves Strategy and Action Plan is a five year strategic plan which provides the necessary framework to manage the 450 reserves under the Council's stewardship. The Plan identifies key strategies and actions to provide access for the community and protection of the environmental values of the natural reserves with the long-term goal of enhancing the overall conditions of the reserves. These strategies and actions reflect environmental best practice, are financially sustainable and balance biodiversity conservation and user needs.

This Plan is an integral part of the City assets management process and is important to informing the Community Strategic Plan, Albany 2021 and a range of other related plans.



# 5 Key Focus Areas

The strategy covers five key focus areas with Objectives and Strategies developed to address each area.





# Background

The City of Albany Natural Reserves are significant assets for biodiversity, scenic beauty, local and visitor enjoyment, research, education and health.

There are over 11,500 hectares of natural reserves that range from small isolated parcels of land to large connected parcels of land, particularly along the coastal strips. A number of these larger reserves have been actively managed under individual management plans in the past, whilst the smaller reserves have not had this level of active management.

In 2010 the City, as a part of corporate planning for reserves, developed an Asset Management Plan for Natural Reserves which provided guidance for the care and maintenance of natural bush reserves. This asset plan outlines the key principles, common management issues and service levels for reserve asset management. It also ranks each reserve in order of priority for management based on a mix of environmental, social/cultural and economic values. These rankings help guide the level of investment that is required in each reserve. The next step in this process was the development of a strategic action plan for natural reserves.

In its 2015-16 budget, the City of Albany allocated funding to develop a Natural Reserves Strategic Plan, to further promote and guide future works in natural reserves. Extensive community consultation for this plan took place in early 2016. Importantly, the development of this plan included a review of all existing individual management plans and any outstanding operational actions from them.

# Why do we need it?

This strategy sits as part of the integrated planning and reporting framework for the Council and provides an overview of the community's aspirations into the future regarding managing the Council's natural reserve assets. The strategy directly relates to the 'Clean, Green and Sustainable' key focus area from the Strategic Community Plan – Albany 2021.

Key Focus Area

2. Clean, Green and Sustainable

Community Priority

2.1 To protect and enhance our natural environment

Proposed Strategies

- By preserving our parks, gardens and reserves for the benefit of future generations;
- By managing factors which impact our coastline, such as erosion and development; and
- By protecting and enhancing the health of our catchments and waterways.

The aspirations expressed as part of the Strategic Community Plan highlight the community's deep love of natural areas and their desire to ensure they are both protected and accessible for enjoyment.





“Our community loves the City’s natural assets, coastline and green spaces within our municipality. Our parks and natural reserves represent great aesthetic, functional and environmental value for our community.

This should be protected, maintained and, where practical, enhanced. There is a strong desire for our natural assets to feature prominently in nature-based tourism opportunities, and to promote Albany as a sustainable city.”

City of Albany Community Strategic Plan 2021 (2013)

## The City's Role

Under the Land Administration Act 1997 the care, control and management of a crown reserve can be vested to a Local Government. This process is known as a vesting (or management) order, and whilst it does not convey total land ownership, it does require the Local Government in which the land is vested to be responsible for the land’s ongoing management. This is the case for the majority of the City’s 450 natural reserves.

The unique natural environment of Albany is part of Australia’s only global biodiversity hot-spot. The many coastal cliffs and beaches are recognised as some of the most spectacular scenic coastal locations in Australia and provide a range of popular recreational opportunities. For these reasons, the natural reserves are highly valued by the City and its residents, and significant resources are devoted to maintaining and protecting these assets. It is therefore important to have a set of guiding principles to manage these areas to ensure that they are protected for future generations.



# Guiding Principles of Natural Reserve Management

These principles are consistent with the Western Australian Environmental Protection Act 1986.

1

## Consistent:

Recognising that a significant body of quality work has been undertaken in managing natural reserves across the City of Albany over the past decade; plans and actions shall seek to align to and build on existing strategies, management plans, policies and/or guidelines.

2

## Conserve and Protect:

High biodiversity values of reserves shall be identified and protected using the best available information to enhance ecological function and connectivity.

3

## Cultural and Heritage:

Plans and actions shall be sensitive to local cultural and heritage values.

4

## In Partnership:

A whole of landscape approach, working together where appropriate with other land managers, key agencies and Local Governments, will be taken to assist the integration of planning and effective actions across natural areas.

5

## Precautionary principle:

Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation. Decisions should be guided by careful evaluation and risk based assessment.

6

## Community Engagement:

The City recognises the importance of local knowledge and community pride in its natural assets, and will engage with the local community in developing plans and actions that align to these key strategic values.

7

## Resilient:

Natural reserves are public places, available for all to enjoy - plans and actions shall contribute to the reserves capacity to cope with potential increased use and shall be adaptive to address current and future biodiversity (and other) threats.

8

## Recreation and Tourism:

Plans and actions shall enhance the capacity of natural reserves to enable manageable growth to continue in recreation and tourism (including events and cultural tourism).

9

## Sustainable:

Plans and actions shall be affordable, well developed, carefully staged and manageable into the long term.

10

## Safe and Accessible:

Access to reserves will be managed without discrimination where feasible, considering a range of potential and current users; plans and actions shall have visitor safety as a priority.

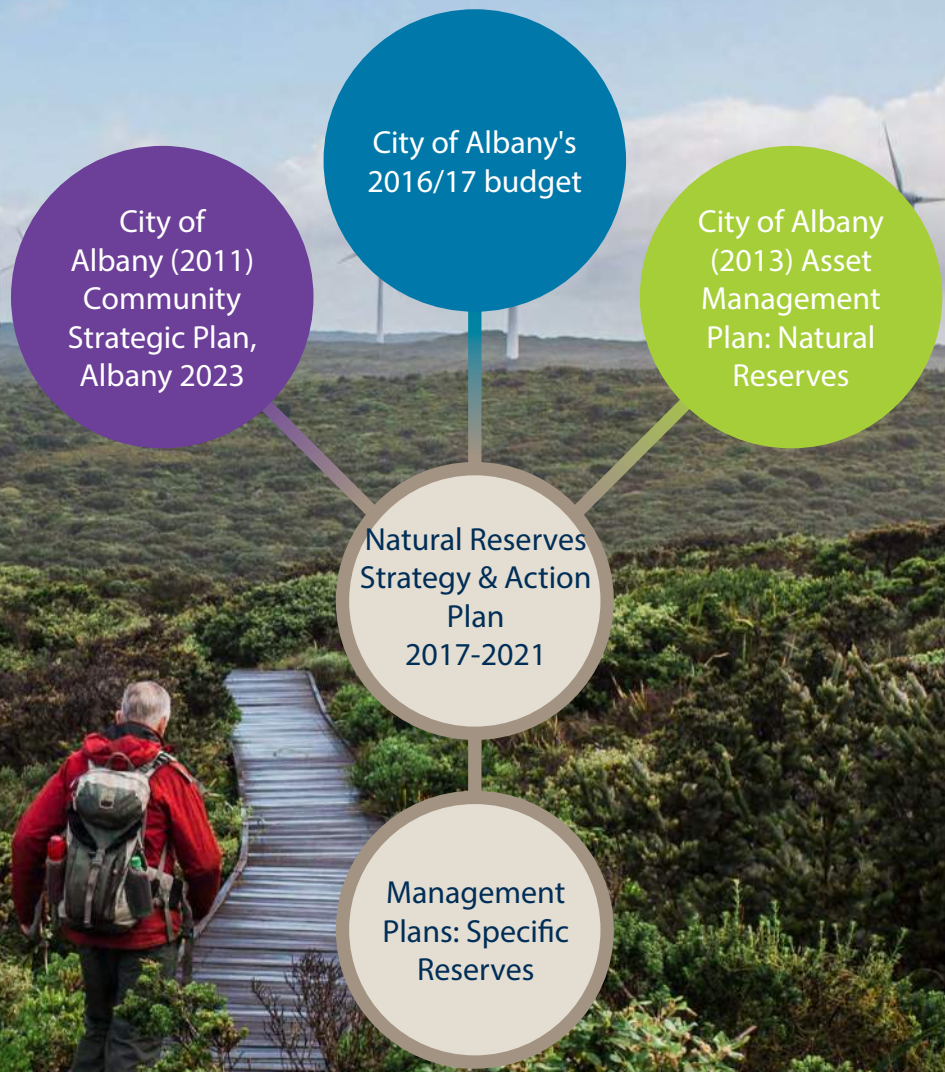


The City of Albany will adhere to all statutory obligations, international agreements and local strategies and frameworks when guiding reserve management and conservation decisions.

The Biodiversity Prioritisation Framework is particularly useful in helping to identify biodiversity values, level of threat and feasibility to act for the south coast region. The City will invest in natural areas across environmental, social and economic values that are:

- High priority;
- Important; and
- Feasible.

An extended list of associated documents that underpin this Plan is appended, central documents are shown.





# Challenges and Opportunities

Community were consulted during the preparation of this plan and highlighted a number of key issues of concern in natural reserves. These included:

- threatening processes that degrade biodiversity and recreational experience (including weeds, dieback, fire etc.);
- protection of cultural heritage;
- maintaining access while controlling damage and potential conflict between user groups;
- increasing visitor pressure particularly on coastal reserves;
- directional and interpretive signage to improve safety and enhance appreciation and experience;
- resourcing to provide and maintain facilities appropriate to usage levels and location;
- adequate regulation and resourcing to ensure reserves are both fit for purpose and regulated to protect purpose; and
- cross tenure landscape management.

The level of community motivation and willingness to provide assistance with planning and on-ground work such as weed and rubbish management is influenced by the value a community places on a reserve. Businesses have also indicated interest in being engaged in support of local reserves. The City places a high level of importance on responding positively to the interests and concerns of the community and working with them to achieve best management.

## Environmental Biodiversity

Challenge	Opportunity
Impacts from increasing human use (e.g. domestic & feral animals, dieback, weeds, erosion, vandalism)	Prevent unauthorised or inappropriate activities. Assess level of impact and mitigation. Rehabilitation and revegetation. Involve and educate community.
Climate change	Monitor, review and evaluation data on condition of reserves. Encourage resilience of natural systems and adaptation to possible impacts.
Protection of significant biodiversity values	Identify, prioritise and protect biodiversity values. Reduce threats. Plan for connectivity outcomes.
Unauthorised clearing/encroachment/edge effect	Community education in regards to the legal framework (Acts & Legislation). Appropriate enforcement of legislation.

## Community Safety and Access

Challenge	Opportunity
Plan fire prevention and management	Fuel reduction plans and community safety plans in place. Cross agency approach. Consider environmental and community assets in reserves.
Timely management of risks and hazards	Assess risks and act to manage them. Ensure sufficient reserve and infrastructure maintenance budget allocation.
Emergency response capability	Appropriate access and protocols in place.
Adequate and current signage	Signage plan. Standardize signage. Maintain signage.



## Recreational Services and Facilities

Challenge	Opportunity
Potential conflicting user group needs	Management plans for each user group including regulations relating to the activity, signage, infrastructure needs, safety etc.
Budget limitations for implementing the Strategy	Seek funding opportunities. Prioritise budgeting.
Providing recreation facilities while protecting environment	Match facilities to user numbers and needs. Educate users to appreciate and protect reserves. Consider impacts on scenic vistas.
Understanding recreational users to ensure facilities are managed sustainably	Survey user groups as part of review process.

## Cultural Heritage Values

Challenge	Opportunity
Identifying and protecting known and unknown sites	Involvement of Noongar and other groups. Have appropriate registers of Noongar and settler heritage sites and features.
Building opportunities to visit and understand sites in a respectful and sustainable way	Interpretative signage and other interactive knowledge/education programs and resources.

## Sustainable Management

Challenge	Opportunity
Working together on natural area management with other agencies and stakeholders across boundaries	Working group concept, partnerships with other key agencies. Support active community, businesses and NRM groups. Ensure consistent management across boundaries to protect common value and share resourcing for management.  Prioritising where to focus resources for best natural area outcomes and highest demand Support regional projects with natural area management focus.
Management of currently unmanaged reserves e.g. Road reserves, UCL	Prioritising areas in terms of biodiversity value. Partner with other key agencies and local governments and community groups.
Appropriate reserve tenure and leasing	Assess tenure of reserves to ensure appropriate for biodiversity and community values, and current and future use. Amalgamate where appropriate. Lease conditions to include management needs, values and purpose. (e.g. booking system, fees, camp hosts, dedicated ranger resources, consistent rules and signage. Incorporate private camping options.)





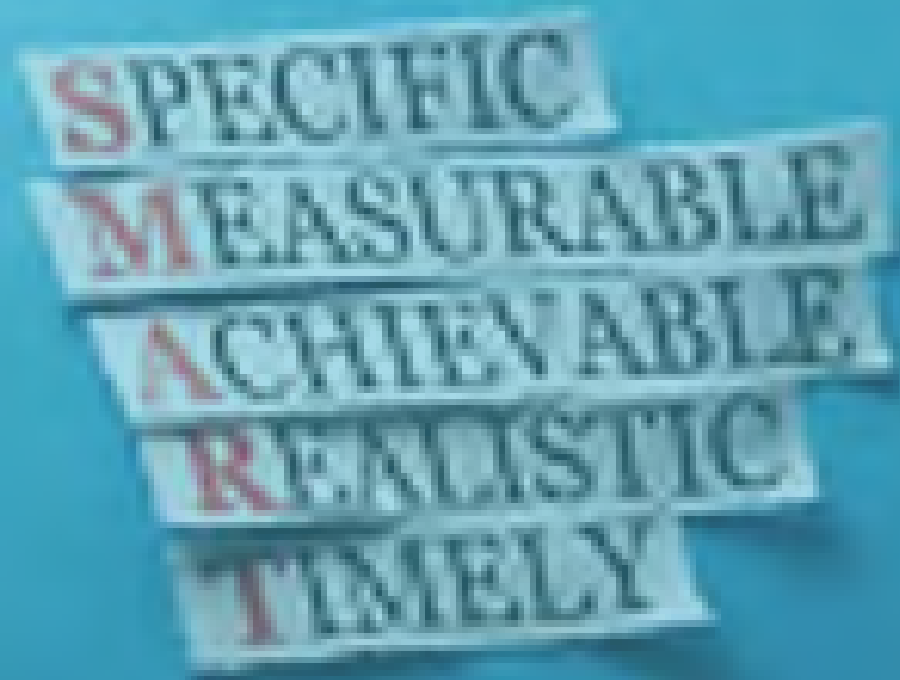
# Resourcing

The value of the City's natural reserves assets has been estimated at approximately \$3.3million (City of Albany 2013). It is important that infrastructure investment is sustainable in the long term with maintenance of all new infrastructure soundly budgeted into ongoing asset maintenance budget projections. This plan may be subject to legislative or policy changes over time that may require reassessment of priorities.

The City has a process of budgeting across a number of time-frames with 10 year, 5 year and annual plans for capital works.

The key to strategic planning and prioritising on-ground actions is the development of SMART objectives.

Outcomes from this plan will be delivered using existing officer time and are subject to project budget allocations. External funding opportunities for major projects of regional significance may be sought to support implementation of selected projects.











# City of Albany Natural Reserves Strategy & Action Plan - Actions Table

## PRIORITY LEGEND

-  High/Short Term
  Medium
  Ongoing

## 1.0 Environmental Biodiversity

Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
<b>Strategic Goal 1.1 To preserve and increase the ecological values of our natural reserves</b>					
1.1.1 Audit existing City of Albany natural reserve management plans to determine what has been achieved, what is outstanding and the final status of plans.	 Identify outstanding actions within existing plans and have them programmed for implementation within the 10yr budget.			The existing management plans have been completed.	City Reserves
1.1.2 Identify priority reserves using the Reserves Attribute Assessment Process, including important wildlife corridors and shorebird habitat, and increase their protection if required.	 Continue to assess reserves using the Reserve Attribute Form to determine priority reserves that will be focused on.			All reserves have been assessed for environmental values and operational plans are developed for priority reserves.	City Reserves
1.1.3 Minimise the impacts of works on the environment.	 Review and update the Environmental Code of Conduct document to ensure practices are up to date.  Assess all new projects under the Environmental Impact Assessment procedure.  Where vegetation needs to be cleared as part of a project, encourage off-set rehabilitation areas.	 Regular training of CoA staff and contractors on the Environmental Code of Conduct document.		Environmental Code of Conduct document is up to date with best management practices.  All staff and contractors conduct works in line with Environmental Code of Conduct document.  All new works on City land are managed to reduce negative environmental impacts.  Negative impacts on the environment as a result of new works is minimised.	City Reserves











Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
1.1.4 To increase community education on the values of bushland and how they can contribute to the preservation of these areas.		❗ Develop and publish a good neighbour brochure for neighbouring properties of natural bushland reserves.	📍 Install interpretative signage in high use natural areas.	More visitors are informed about environmental values of high use reserves.	City Reserves Communications & events Team
Strategic Goal 1.2 To partner with stakeholders to deliver on biodiversity conservation and the health of local waterways					
1.2.1 Provide input into new subdivision development proposals regarding the management of existing and new foreshore reserves and other POS.			❗ Develop guideline sheets for developers.	Improved foreshore and other POS management plans.	City Reserves Planning
1.2.2 Support regional catchment groups and State NRM programs, and participate in on-ground activities.	📍 Support projects that are involved with conservation works in reserves that involve youth training programs (eg Green Army)			Regional groups and programs are continued.	City Reserves
1.2.3 Work closely with DPaW on undertaking 'Conservation burns' to enhance specific conservation values.			❗ Develop an internal procedure to undertake 'conservation burns'.	Conservation and biodiversity values in reserves are maintained through specific prescribed burning processes.	City Reserves Ranger & Emergency Services External parties (DPaW, DFES, VBFB).
Strategic Goal 1.3 To reduce the impact of invasive species on the natural environment (including ferals & dieback)					



Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
1.3.1 Review and implement the Environmental Weeds Strategy for lands managed by the City of Albany.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Promote existing weed brochures/ pamphlets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Update the Environmental Weed Strategy, including reviewing the priority work areas.</li> <li>* Develop a Pest Plant Local law.</li> </ul>	<p>Environmental Weed Strategy is updated and weeds are successfully managed in priority reserve/areas.</p> <p>Weed information is widely distributed to the community.</p> <p>A Pest Plant Local law is developed and adopted by Council.</p>	<p>City Reserves Bushcare Team Rangers</p>
1.3.2 Support and assist in developing regional weed and invasive species management programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Staff continue to attend SCNRM Biodiversity Reference Group meetings.</li> <li>✔ Support feral animal control in particular areas, if part of a regional or larger program, if feasible.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Review and update the Animal Local Law to support management control actions regarding feral animals.</li> </ul>	<p>Regional plan of attack against invasive weeds.</p> <p>Increased feral animal control in important regions.</p> <p>An updated Animal Local Law that includes feral animal control efforts.</p>	<p>City Reserves Ranger &amp; Emergency Services Governance &amp; Risk</p>
1.3.3 Implement management actions to reduce the spread of dieback in high conservation value reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Undertake dieback surveys by qualified dieback interpreters, as required, to locate dieback protectable areas and develop appropriate hygiene plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Install educational signage regarding the spread of dieback.</li> </ul>		<p>Dieback is not avoidably introduced to dieback-free or dieback protectable areas.</p> <p>Public is better educated about the importance of dieback hygiene when visiting reserves.</p>	<p>City Reserves</p>



## 2.0 Community Safety

Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
<b>Strategic Goal 2.1 To effectively manage fire risk within City of Albany natural reserves</b>					
2.1.1 Develop and Implement Fuel Management Plans and continue to manage fire risk according to reserve priority.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Develop fuel management plans for priority CoA managed natural reserves.</li> <li> Implementation of fuel management plans for priority reserves against timelines.</li> <li> Determine a procedure to appropriately manage unmade road reserves in urban environments specifically for fuel load management, including burning.</li> </ul>	<p>Fuel management plans developed for priority reserves.</p> <p>Approved fuel management plans are implemented.</p> <p>Procedure for fuel management within unmade road reserves is developed and made available to community.</p>	<p>City Reserves</p> <p>Ranger &amp; Emergency Services</p>
2.1.2 To support local volunteer bushfire brigade activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Provide support to local volunteer bushfire brigades to implement reserve fire management plans as required.</li> </ul>			<p>Volunteer Bushfire Brigades feel well supported by the City.</p>	<p>Ranger &amp; Emergency Services</p> <p>City Reserves</p> <p>Volunteers</p>
2.1.3 Increase knowledge and understanding of CoA fire management programs and fire safety within community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Liaise with Brigades on minimising impact on the environment during wildfire events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Attend local Emergency Management Committee meetings and support education activities.</li> </ul>		<p>Brigades are better educated to ensure wildfire events are managed to minimise environmental damage.</p> <p>Public better understands the annual CoA fire management program.</p>	<p>Ranger &amp; Emergency Services</p> <p>City Reserves</p> <p>Volunteers</p>
2.1.4 Undertake post wildfire remediation works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Remediate areas impacted as a result of wildfire events.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Develop a procedure for reporting and mapping all wildfire events.</li> </ul>	<p>All wildfire events are reported and mapped.</p> <p>Areas affected by wildfire events are remediated.</p>	<p>City Reserves</p> <p>Bushcare Team</p> <p>Ranger &amp; Emergency Services</p>











Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
<b>Strategic Goal 2.2 To provide safe access to City of Albany natural reserves</b>					
2.2.1 Undertake annual maintenance of fire access tracks on reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Fire access tracks continue to be maintained and improved annually as required.</li> </ul>			Fire access tracks are maintained to a safe standard.	City Reserves
2.2.2 Undertake safety audits of recreational facilities and access points regularly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>! Complete the outstanding recommendations from the 2015 CoA visitor risk assessment.</li> <li>* Update CoA asset visitor risk audit every five years.</li> <li>* Support and assist in the implementation of the Albany Coastal Rock Fishing Safety Committee initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Support communication education programs resulting from the Albany Coastal Rock Fishing Safety Committee with a key focus on minority populations.</li> </ul>		<p>Improved visitor experiences within reserves.</p> <p>Reserve infrastructure is kept to a safe standard for visitors.</p> <p>Decrease in rock fishing incidents and reported improved safe behavior.</p>	<p>Recreation Services</p> <p>City Reserves</p> <p>Ranger &amp; Emergency Services</p> <p>Volunteers</p>
<b>Strategic Goal 2.3 To have an educated and well informed community supporting emergency management</b>					



Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
2.3.1 Develop and implement a communication plan to educate the community on safety, responsible conduct and compliance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage user groups to use the customer service system to assist with monitoring activities of others in reserves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop community education resources and programs to promote visitor safety and conduct in reserves.</li> <li>Make materials available at the visitors centre regarding responsible conduct in reserves.</li> </ul>		<p>Better understanding by community about responsible conduct in reserves.</p> <p>Positive feedback received from the community on reserve management.</p>	<p>City Reserves</p> <p>Ranger &amp; Emergency Services</p> <p>Communications &amp; Events Team</p>
2.3.2 Reduce the level of visitor conflict and management/safety issues in recreational reserves.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a strategic working group to address and improve safe recreational reserve behaviours.</li> <li>Implement the visitor safety strategies from the Albany Trails Hub Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>A reduction in the number of reports received regarding user conflict in reserves.</p>	<p>Recreation Services</p> <p>City Reserves</p> <p>Recreational Groups &amp; Volunteers</p>



## 3.0 Recreational Services & Facilities

Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
<b>Strategic Goal 3.1 To provide recreational facilities that minimise impact on the natural environment</b>					
3.1.1 Identify priority reserves against usage patterns and ability to sustain increased levels of visitation as part of the reserves attribute assessment process.			 Gather appropriate data on specific high use reserves (ie reserve usage surveys, traffic counters).	Local residents are engaged to assist with monitoring activities within reserves.	City Reserves Recreation Services
3.1.2 Develop a Reserves Works/ Design Manual.			 Develop an in-house standard design manual for reserve infrastructure.	Consistency of infrastructure within reserves which results in reduced maintenance costs.	City Reserves City Engineering
3.1.3 Maintain an inventory of recreational infrastructure within natural reserves and undertake regular assessment and replacement.	 Review the 2010 Natural Reserves Asset Management Plan.		 Implement actions from the reviewed Natural Reserves Asset Management Plan.	Updated Natural Reserves Asset Management Plan. Infrastructure within reserves will be consistent and of a high standard.	City Engineering City Reserves
3.1.4 Identify suitable reserves for community groups to lease for recreational activities, with minimal impact on the environment.	 Support additional and new leases to be developed on previously cleared or degraded areas and/or co-location of facilities.  Develop leases with conditions associated with the management of any bushland within the lease area.  Regularly inspect lease areas to ensure compliance with environmental conditions.			Minimise environmental impact as a result of new leases Remnant bushland within leases areas are better protected. Minimise environmental impacts as a result of leases.	Corporate Services / Leasing City Reserves Recreation Services
3.1.5 Ensure compliance officers/ rangers presence in 'hotspots' to ensure sustainable recreational activities in reserves.			 Develop a business case for increased resourcing for dedicated reserve compliance officer.	Reserve compliance is resourced by additional resources.	City Reserves Rangers



Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
3.2.1 Develop a working group to review relevant City of Albany Local laws to clearly define what activities are permissible.	<p>❗ Review all CoA Local Laws in relation to reserve management.</p>			Clear schedule of regulatory actions based on simple and consistent rules.	City Reserves Ranger & Emergency Services Compliance & Risk
3.2.2 Support existing and approved management plans.	<p>✳ Upgrade trails and signs at Lake Seppings.</p> <p>✳ Implement outstanding actions regarding track management for existing approved plans.</p>		<p>✳ Assist with implementing the actions as per the Trails Hub Strategy plan.</p>	<p>People report positive experiences using our trails.</p> <p>Fewer unapproved and unnecessary tracks within reserves.</p> <p>Key priority recreational trails are completed.</p>	City Reserves Recreation Services Recreational Groups & Volunteers
3.2.3 Support local, regional and state recreational programs and events.	<p>🔄 Provide input into planning stages of events to advise on minimising environmental harm.</p>			Positive event outcomes with supportive community feedback and minimal environmental harm.	Communications & Events Team Corporate Services City Reserves
3.2.4 Support actions from the Boating Facilities Study.			<p>✳ Implement outstanding actions relating to boating from the 2015 Black Swan Point Management Plan and the 2015 Cheyne Beach Improvement Plan.</p>	Key boating facilities are upgraded.	City Reserves
3.2.5 Improve high visitor use access nodes on natural reserves.			<p>❗ Upgrade Bluff Rock Reserve with formal car park and rehabilitation of degraded areas as per the Mounts Management Plan.</p> <p>✳ Upgrade facilities at Mutton Bird reserve as per the 2016 feasibility study.</p>	Visitors report positive experiences when visiting our reserves.	City Reserves



Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
<b>Strategic Goal 3.3 To provide affordable nature based camping opportunities within key reserves</b>					
3.3.1 Undertake a whole of CoA camping feasibility study.	 Develop and implement a CoA camp host program annually.	 Promote CoA camping facilities through various media.	 Complete a camping feasibility study which will encompass expansion options to meet projected growth estimates.	Visitors are reporting positive nature based camping experiences in the CoA. Campers are no longer camping in undesignated areas. Campsites are used to full capacity during peak times.	City Reserves Communications & Events Team



## 4.0 Cultural Heritage Values









Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
<b>Strategic Goal 4.1 Involve Aboriginal community members in decisions</b>					
4.1.1 Engage Aboriginal community members in reserve planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer all reserves projects through the CoA Noongar Consultative Committee.</li> </ul>			Noongar heritage values are protected.	City Reserves Corporate Services
4.1.2 Engage Aboriginal community members in the management of natural reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employ Indigenous staff and contractors where possible.</li> <li>Use Noongar youth training programs to undertake reserve management activities where possible.</li> </ul>			Members of the Noongar community feel included in the process of reserve management.  Noongar members are actively involved in reserve management.	City Reserves
<b>Strategic Goal 4.2 To identify and protect City of Albany heritage values and to ensure that the City complies with all relevant heritage legislation</b>					
4.2.1 Identify and protect heritage values on City of Albany natural reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support projects that identify and enhance heritage sites.</li> <li>Undertake heritage impact assessments on all proposed works within reserves and adapt on-ground works as required.</li> </ul>			Places of heritage values are recognised and protected on CoA reserves.  New works do not result in disturbing heritage values.	City Reserves
4.2.2 Develop and implement concept plans for key heritage sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a heritage concept plan for Albany Fish Ponds reserve.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a heritage concept plan for Mt Melville/Kardarup.</li> <li>Develop and implement a heritage concept plan for Point Possession reserve.</li> </ul>	Key heritage sites are protected and celebrated.	City Reserves Planning
<b>Strategic Goal 4.3 To promote heritage through education and awareness</b>					

Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
4.3.1 Engage with the Noongar community to promote cultural heritage in reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Include dual naming on signs for reserves where a name is recognised and supported by the Noongar community.</li> <li>❖ Include Noongar heritage information on reserve interpretative signage as appropriate.</li> <li>❖ Consult with relevant groups to identify key historical sites within reserves.</li> </ul>			<p>Cultural heritage is recognised and promoted in reserves.</p> <p>Increased awareness and appreciation of Noongar culture.</p> <p>An up to date register of key historical sites within CoA reserves.</p>	<p>City Reserves</p> <p>Corporate Services</p>
4.3.2 Engage with relevant groups regarding the promotion of European history in reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Include European heritage information on reserve interpretative signage as appropriate.</li> </ul>			<p>Increased awareness and appreciation of European heritage.</p>	<p>City Reserves</p>



## 5.0 Sustainable Management

Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
<b>Strategic Goal 5.1 To improve the resilience of our natural environment to change.</b>					
5.1.1 Support ongoing investigation and research on natural reserve management through internal and external programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Support and encourage local projects that investigate the impacts of fire on local flora and fauna.</li> <li>✔ Monitor impacts of development using adaptive management principles.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Repeat the Lowlands fauna survey to monitor change in the environment.</li> <li>* Undertake baseline flora and fauna surveys between Sand Patch and Torbay.</li> </ul>	<p>The most up to date information is used to assist in the management of natural reserves.</p> <p>Environmental baseline data is available for key reserves.</p> <p>A better understanding of how fire impacts flora and fauna.</p> <p>Improved developments that result in minimal environmental impacts.</p>	City Reserves Tertiary Education Organisations Community
5.1.2 Revegetate degraded areas within reserves, with particular attention to high use and vulnerable areas such as coastal zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Priority areas are identified annually and revegetation planned.</li> </ul>			Priority areas are successfully revegetated.	City Reserves
<b>Strategic Goal 5.2 To align natural reserve management with industry best practices and standards</b>					
5.2.1 Engage with industry natural resource management leaders and State agencies on reserve management activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✔ Attend regionally focused partnership meetings.</li> <li>✔ Liaise with relevant agencies and non-for-profit groups to bring collaboration and consistency in natural resource management across all tenures.</li> </ul>			<p>Collaboration and consistency in natural resource management across all tenures.</p> <p>Consistent management across all land tenures.</p>	City Reserves

Objective	Actions			Outcomes	Responsibility
	Existing Practices	Community Education	New Initiatives		
5.2.2 Implement projects to help refine best practice techniques for the Albany region.			 Trial new and innovative management activities and techniques within reserves as appropriate.	The City is continuing to evolve and develop best available reserve management options.	City Reserves
5.2.3 Staff to attend professional development opportunities.	 Staff attend professional development opportunities once a year.			Staff are kept up to date on new and innovative techniques and information in relation to natural resource management.	City Reserves
<b>Strategic Goal 5.3 To engage and consult stakeholders on natural reserve management</b>					
5.3.1 Foster local community involvement in the planning and management of reserves.	 Staff continue to support and attend Bushcarers Group meetings.	 Promote and co-ordinate community busy bees on reserves (including community planting days).	 Support the formation of new community groups to address specific issues and/or reserve locations.	<p>Improved partnerships with local community groups.</p> <p>Bushcarers Group continues to grow and succeed.</p> <p>Local community groups feel included and encouraged to get involved in environmental management in their local reserves.</p>	City Reserves
5.3.2 Support partnership programs with regional groups.	 Continue representation on key regional groups (i.e. South Coast Management Group, SCNRM Biodiversity Reference Group, DPaW dieback and rare flora working group).  Continue to coordinate nature based camping alliance with neighbouring LG's and DPaW.			<p>Collaboration and consistency in natural resource management across all tenures.</p> <p>Consistent nature based camping rules across Shire boundaries in the Great Southern Region.</p>	City Reserves External Parties
5.3.3 Value community groups including progress associations as stakeholders in management	 Staff attend relevant community group meetings at least annually.			Improved partnerships with local community groups.	City Reserves



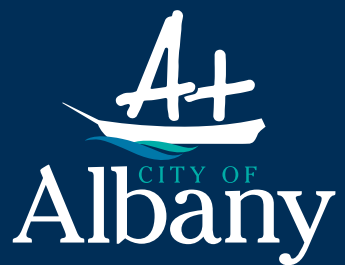




# Associated Documents

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