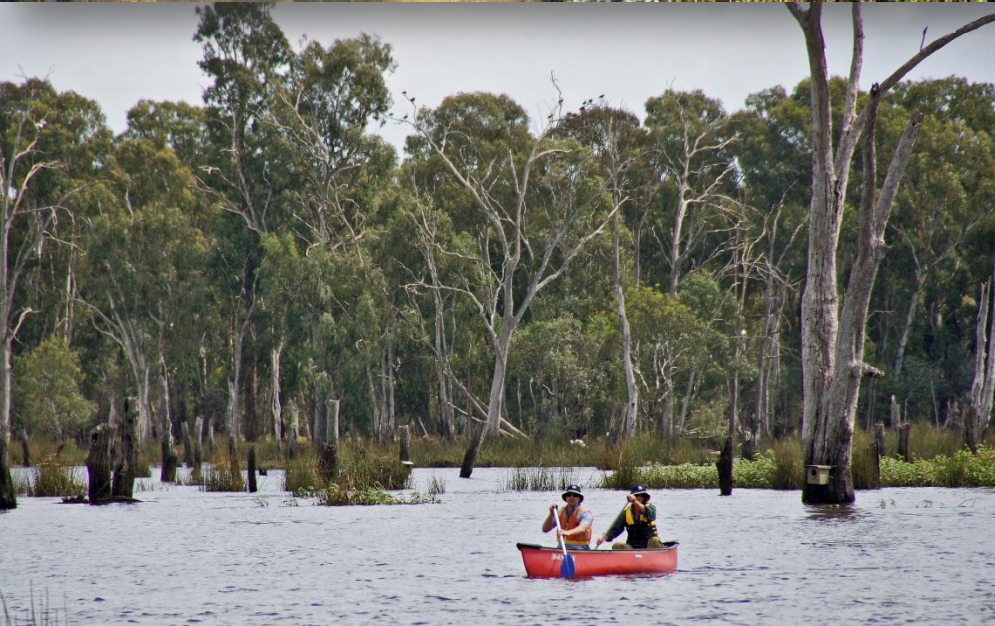




*“Treat the earth well, it was not given to you by your parents, but is lent to you by your children”*  
Kenyan Proverb

# Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 - 2030



Greater Shepparton  
Environmental  
Sustainability Strategy  
Stakeholder Reference  
Committee



GREATER  
SHEPPARTON

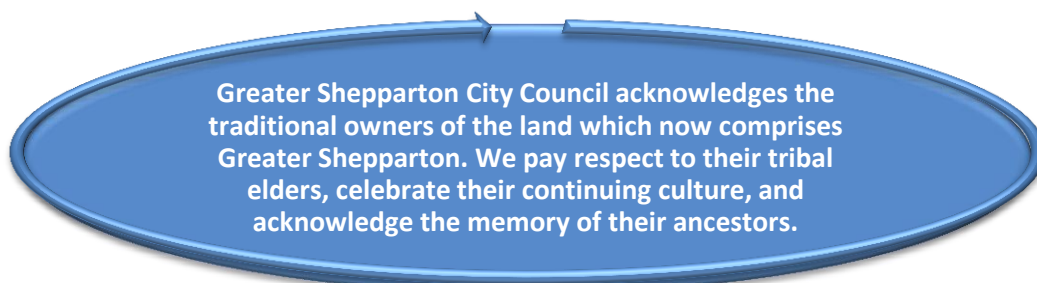
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The Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014-2030) and Action Plan (2014-2017) was adopted by Council on 15 July 2014.

Cover photos: Three significant environmental features in the City of Greater Shepparton. The “Dookie Hills” in the east of the municipality (top) (Source: Tallis Wine Company, Dookie); Council staff at the Gemmill's Swamp bioremediation wetland, Mooroopna; and Reedy Swamp, part of the Lower Goulburn National Park (bottom) (Source: Photo 8).





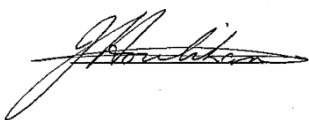
## **Foreword**

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) acknowledges that our daily operations and the outcomes from our decision-making can impact upon our local environment.

Council has many environmental roles and responsibilities, and there are over 30 Federal and State Government environmental Legislative Acts that Council must comply with during our operations and activities.

Engagement with our community and Council staff has revealed a re-occurring expectation that Council should be leading by example through proactively seeking solutions to environmental issues and maximise the positive environmental outcomes that result from our activities and decision-making.

The implementation of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014-2030) and Action Plan (2014-2017) (the Strategy) is an important step to ensure that environmental sustainability considerations are incorporated into all Council decision-making processes and operations.



Cr Jenny Houlihan

Mayor

Greater Shepparton City Council

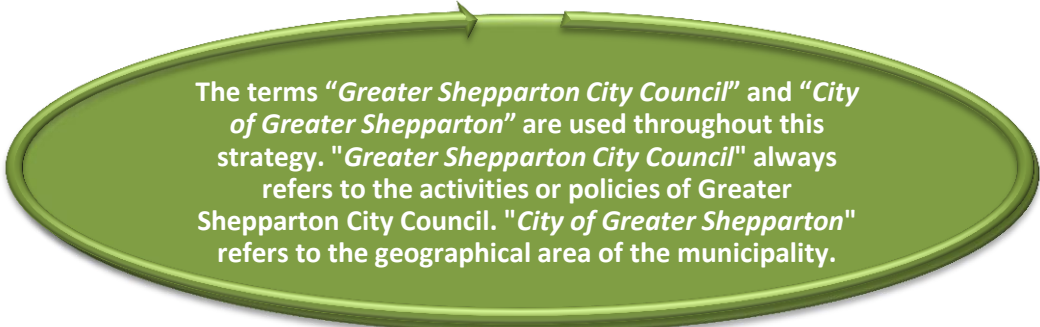


## **Acknowledgements**

This important project was funded with the support of the Victorian Government under the Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership – formerly known as the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord. Council has been a signatory to the Victorian Local Sustainability Accord since 2007.

This Strategy has been written by the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee (SRC). Council would like to thank all 18 SRC members for their time, ongoing commitment and patience. The development of this Strategy would not have been possible without their expertise and enthusiasm. Appendix I contains the Council adopted SRC Terms of Reference and a list of all SRC members.

Council would also like to acknowledge and thank our community for their repeated input into the development of the Strategy. Council was very impressed with the quantity and quality of the community submissions received during the Discussion Paper and Draft Strategy consultation phases.



The terms "*Greater Shepparton City Council*" and "*City of Greater Shepparton*" are used throughout this strategy. "*Greater Shepparton City Council*" always refers to the activities or policies of Greater Shepparton City Council. "*City of Greater Shepparton*" refers to the geographical area of the municipality.

## ***Document outline***

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030 is comprised of four sections:

**Section One** provides an introduction to the Strategy, outlines its purpose, how it was developed and introduces the key principles to be applied during its implementation.

**Section Two** presents the strategic context of the Strategy. The current state of the Greater Shepparton Environment is summarised, key external drivers of change, the concerns and aspirations of our community and Council's role and capacity are discussed.

**Section Three** contains the strategic framework of the Strategy including an outline of the Strategy's mission, visions, strategic directions, objectives and the environmental outcomes that will result from the successful implementation of this Strategy.

**Section Four** contains the four-year Strategy Action Plan (2014-2017) to commence achieving the Strategy's objectives. The action plan will be updated every four years as part of the Strategy review process and reported against annually.



**Figure 1: The redeveloped Victoria Park Lake (photo taken February 2012), was the equal fourth most valued environmental asset identified in the community environmental values survey (2011).**

Environmental sustainability management is defined as managing human impacts upon, and interactions with the environment in order to preserve natural resources for present and future generations

## **Section One: Strategy introduction, purpose and development process**

### **1. Introduction and purpose**

Council has many environmental sustainability management roles and responsibilities, including compliance with over 30 Australian and Victorian Government environmental Legislative Acts. Council's current environmental sustainability activities are divided into four key environmental categories: waste management, land and biodiversity management, water management and energy management.

Council has outlined its commitment to environmental sustainability management in all of Council's high-level strategic documents (the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy*, the *Council Plan 2013-2017* and the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme).

The development of the Strategy has had a strong emphasis on community engagement and Council staff, stakeholder organisations and the Greater Shepparton community have been heavily involved in the development of this Strategy.

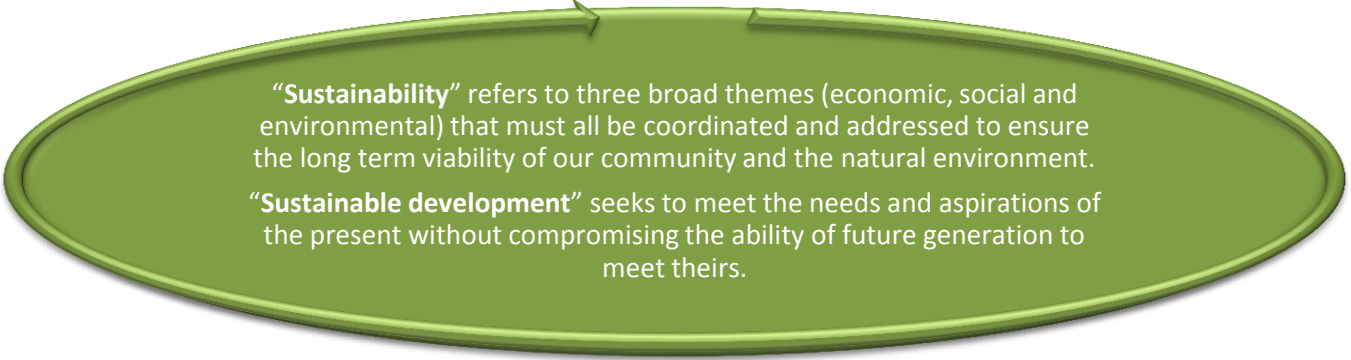
The Environmental Sustainability Strategy Discussion Paper (which was available for community consultation in March and April 2013) is a companion document to this Strategy. This Strategy is heavily focused on providing future direction for Council. The Discussion Paper provides further background information on the current state of, and threats, to the Greater Shepparton environment, relevant Legislative Acts and an outline of Council's pre-strategy environmental activities.

The **mission** of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy is:

*To improve Council's environmental sustainability performance by imbedding environmental sustainability considerations into Council's decision-making processes and operational activities.*

Implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will facilitate the achievement of the following three **visions**:

1. Our municipality: *Our healthy, vibrant, and resilient natural environment can sustain the long-term prosperity of our municipality for generations to come.*
2. Our organisation: *Greater Shepparton City Council is respected and recognised by our community, stakeholders and peers for leading by example on environmental issues and achieving positive environmental outcomes from our decision-making processes and operational activities.*
3. Our community: *Our environmentally conscious and well-informed community demonstrate that they value our environment by incorporating sustainability principles into their everyday activities and by their involvement in local environmental protection and enhancement activities.*



**"Sustainability"** refers to three broad themes (economic, social and environmental) that must all be coordinated and addressed to ensure the long term viability of our community and the natural environment.

**"Sustainable development"** seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet theirs.



The adoption and implementation of this Strategy will improve Council's environmental performance and fulfil all of the following internal (organisational) and external (community and stakeholders) focused purposes (in no particular order or importance):

- ✓ Articulate an overall environmental sustainability vision for Council and outline the key directions, actions and key indicators to achieve this vision.
  - ✓ Provide direction and improve the consistency of environmental management across the organisation.
  - ✓ Identify and prioritise environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation activities with improved integration across Council strategies and plans.
  - ✓ Outline Council's capacity to act upon or impact specific environmental issues.
- ✓ Provide a framework for coordinating and regularly reviewing existing environmental sustainability policies, plans and projects.
  - ✓ Demonstrate accountability to our community in regards to Council's environmental performance.
  - ✓ Increase the capacity and understanding of environmental sustainability across Council and the community.
  - ✓ Assist Council to involve the community and cross-Council business units in local, regional and State sustainability goals and activities.
  - ✓ Communicate and promote Council's environmental sustainability commitment, activities and achievements, internally, to ratepayers and the wider community.
  - ✓ Explore opportunities to partner with stakeholder agencies and community groups to achieve greater environmental sustainability outcomes for our region



Figure 2: Council staff induction at the Gemmill's Swamp bioremediation wetland, Mooroopna.

## 2. The Greater Shepparton environment

The City of Greater Shepparton is situated in the lower floodplain country of the Goulburn Broken catchment and the confluence of three waterways (the Goulburn River, the Broken River, and the Sevens Creek) is located in the geographical centre of the municipality.

Other dominant geological features of our region include Cambrian aged volcanic rocks rising from the plains around Dookie in the east of the municipality and the north-eastern extent of the uplifted Goldfields and Box Ironbark hills in the south west of the municipality.

Some of the most significant environmental assets within the City of Greater Shepparton are the Lower Goulburn National Park, Dookie Bushland Reserve, Loch Garry, Gemmill’s Swamp, Reedy Swamp, Cussen Park, the Shepparton Regional Park, Victoria Park Lake and other areas of native vegetation along roadsides and other riparian areas.

Our natural environment has provided our region with clean air, productive soils, temperate climatic conditions and a water supply that has allowed us to become one of the most productive agricultural production areas in Australia.

This strategy refers to the outputs from complex natural environmental systems as “ecosystem services”. Ecosystem services are the conditions and processes through which the natural ecosystems and the species that comprise them, sustain and fulfil human life (CSIRO 2003, Daily 1997) (Figure 3).

The environmental values of our current natural landscapes have been severely degraded by human imposed modifications since European settlement. These land management practice changes have degraded our soils and seriously altered the natural landscape resulting in our indigenous flora and fauna being largely restricted to refugia along roadsides and riparian bushland. A snapshot of the current condition of our environment is outlined further in chapter 7 (page 10).

Managing our environment in a sustainable manner is essential to ensure that our region remains highly productive into the future.

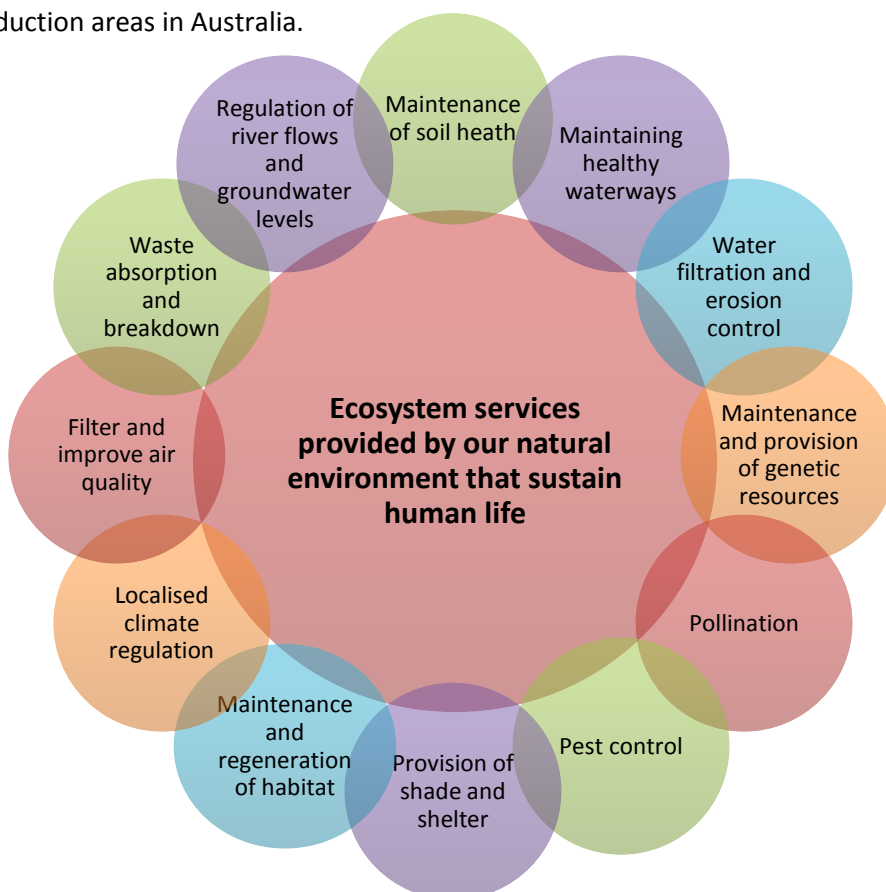


Figure 3: Ecosystem services provided by our natural environment that sustain human life (even by a single paddock tree!).

### 3. Environmental sustainability principles

This Strategy builds upon the environmental commitments outlined in the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy and the Sustainable Decision-Making Policy (adopted by Council in 2013). These documents include a commitment to the achievement of a sustainable way of life for current and future generations through a shared understanding of environmental sustainability.

The Strategy has a broad scope that includes all environmental sustainability considerations that will inform decision-making and the development and implementation of policies, plans, strategies and the delivery of Council services and operations.

Council recognises our community leadership roles and responsibilities and has commenced embedding sustainability principles throughout the organisation and in our interactions with the broader community.

Councillors, staff, contractors and consultants of Greater Shepparton City Council will act in accordance with this Strategy and Council's environmental commitment by ensuring that:

- ✓ Council activities are conducted in accordance with the environmental objectives outlined in the Council Plan 2013-17, the Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy, the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030 and the Sustainable Decision-Making Policy (2013).

- ✓ Council is committed to ensuring our **decision-making** processes are **open, transparent, and inclusive** of our community. Reliable scientific and technical evidence will be included in the decision-making process in relation to environmental impacts.
- ✓ Council will improve our **communication** about our environmental activities and achievements via **regular** and **honest engagement**. Council needs to provide an explanation of the rationale behind environmental decisions.
- ✓ Council will be **adaptable** to continuous technological advances and **improvements in environmental understanding**. Learning from the experiences of current and past activities.
- ✓ Council will provide **leadership** to the Greater Shepparton community and **lead by example** to achieve positive environmental outcomes.
- ✓ Council will achieve positive environmental outcomes using a **collaborative approach** to increase the participation of the community, stakeholders and Council staff in positive environmental activities.
- ✓ Council will achieve financial savings from the implementation of many environmental sustainability actions.
- ✓ Council will commence regular **reporting and review** of its **environmental activities**.



Figure 4: Native vegetation and animal habitat in the City of Greater Shepparton is mostly restricted to waterways and road reserves. These “environmental corridors” or “biolinks” are providing vital connectivity opportunities for native species across our landscape. Scattered remnant paddock trees provide “stepping stone” connectivity for our native species. The removal of any tree, especially on private land or road reserves, greatly reduces movement opportunities for our already struggling native species.



#### 4. Strategy development process

The Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee (SRC) was established by Council to develop this Strategy.

The 18 member SRC is comprised of key stakeholder groups and agencies such as the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Parks Victoria, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. Three community representatives and several community groups also sit on the committee, which is chaired by Cr Kevin Ryan. Appendix I contains the Council endorsed SRC Terms of Reference and a full list of SRC members.

Figure 5 (below) provides an outline of the Strategy development process. Major steps in the development process (indicated by the bold colour and font) are all followed by a community comment and engagement period. This strong, repeated emphasis on community engagement has been a vital component of the development process. Each major step also contains a SRC and internal Council review, which, along with the community consultation then informs the next stage of the Strategy’s development.

An essential step in the development of the Strategy was to release a discussion paper to instigate community, stakeholder and internal staff discussions about Greater Shepparton City Council’s environmental sustainability management activities.

The discussion paper was written by the SRC to provide Council, Council stakeholders and the wider community with background information relevant to the development of the Strategy. The discussion paper was available for community consultation in March 2013, but is still available to download on Council’s website.

Eighty-five submissions were received during the discussion paper community consultation period. These submissions contained over a thousand specific comments, largely relating to local environmental management issues and how Council can achieve positive outcomes on these matters. Some of the key messages from the community consultation process are outlined in the “Our community and their major environmental concerns” chapter (page 14). A companion “What you said” report on the community feedback received is also available on Council’s website.



Figure 5: Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy – development process

## Section Two: Strategic context

The following section outlines the considerations that Council needs to incorporate into the development of the Strategy.

### 5. Policy context

The legislation that governs environmental management is very complex and continuously changing. This legislation operates at all levels of government and includes international agreements. A comprehensive list of the major environmental legislative and policy frameworks that regulate Council's environmental management and the Australian and State Government departments and agencies that implement and enforce them is provided in the Discussion Paper.

The key Victorian Government departments, agencies and regional environmental organisations that will assist Council to comply with relevant environmental legislations are:

- Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
- Sustainability Victoria

- Parks Victoria
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation
- Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance
- Resource GV (Goulburn Valley)

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy is consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy*, the *Council Plan 2013-2017* and the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme. Further details on the content of these documents are outlined in the discussion paper.

The development of the discussion paper helped to gather all of the existing Council plans and strategies relating to our environment and the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will provide a framework for the review of all Council's environmental policies and plans.

Figure 6 (below) provides a hierarchical overview of where the Environmental Sustainability Strategy sits within Council's strategic structure.



Figure 6: Hierarchical overview of where the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy will sit within Council's existing strategic structure. Arrows indicate that the Strategy will incorporate environmental sustainability consideration into the MSS and other Council strategies and plans.



## 6. The Environmental Sustainability Strategy's lifespan, reviewing and reporting processes

The lifespan of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030 (the Strategy) is deliberately aligned with Council's highest-level strategic document, The Greater Shepparton 2030 (GS 2030) Strategy. This is because the Strategy facilitates the achievement of the long-term environmental sustainability objectives contained in the GS 2030 Strategy.

The Strategy is scheduled to be reviewed every four years to ensure that the Strategy and the new Council Plan are aligned. The four-year Council Plan drives Council's strategic direction for the four years following each election of the new Council. Linking the Strategy review process with each Council Plan development process will ensure that shorter-term Council Plan objectives are aligned with the objectives of this Strategy.

The Action Plan 2014-2017 (page 29) contains the actions for implementation over the next four years to achieve the major objectives of this Strategy. The Action Plan 2014-2017 will be updated with a new four-year Action Plan at the completion of each Strategy review process.

The Action Plan 2014-2017 will be integrated throughout the Council organisation via the InterPlan System. This electronic program inserts the actions of the Strategy into the relevant business, service and work plans. Responsibility for the implementation of each action will sit with the relevant responsible manager.

A key component of the review process will be to reassess the state of the environment variables outlined in chapter 7 (page 10) and the environmental outcomes the Strategy seeks to achieve via the accomplishment of the objectives outlined in chapter 15 (page 23). These variables will be assessed against the most recently available state of the environment data during each four-year Strategy review process and again when the Strategy has reached the end of its life in 2030.

The Strategy will be reported on annually. Each annual report will summarise the implementation progress of the Strategy and outline some of the major environmental sustainability achievements that Council has accomplished.

The environmental sustainability annual report will be produced during the Council Budget annual reporting process. The environmental sustainability annual reporting process will provide Council staff and the community the opportunity to monitor Council's implementation of the Strategy.

The diagram below provides a visual representation of the alignment of this Strategy with Council's highest-level strategic documents.



## 7. The state of the Greater Shepparton environment

The following three tables provide an overview of the state of the Greater Shepparton environment. The current state and the trend in condition are outlined for individual environmental characteristics relating to “our natural environment”, and “using our resources wisely”, whilst the “our climate” table contains a snapshot of our historic climate vs projected climatic conditions.

Individual government agencies collect and report on the different elements of these tables and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority and Department of Environment and Primary Industries in particular,

were instrumental in collating the following information. The information contained in these tables will become a benchmark for comparison against future states and trends as part of the four-year strategy review process, then again when the life of the Strategy concludes in 2030.

Data was unavailable to determine the state and trend for several key environmental characteristics during the development of this Strategy. This information will be sourced as soon as possible, depending on the availability of data.

The Discussion Paper provides further information on the current state and the major threats to the Greater Shepparton environment.

### Our natural environment

	State <sup>^</sup>	Trend	Comment
<b>Native vegetation cover</b>	Poor	Decreasing	The City of Greater Shepparton has one of the lowest covers of native vegetation of any municipality in Victoria and the remaining native vegetation is heavily fragmented and in a degraded condition. Road reserves support a significant proportion of the municipality’s remnant native vegetation. Scattered remnant paddock trees are of significant biodiversity importance in our largely cleared landscape. The limited quantity of native vegetation that remains is under increasing removal pressures from land development and perceived fire mitigation activities.
<b>Land managed for conservation</b>	Poor	Increasing	The area of land managed for conservation purposes is low but increasing in the City of Greater Shepparton. Council’s rate rebate incentive program has helped increase the area of Trust for Nature covenanted land compared to other intensive agriculture dominated municipalities in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. State and Federal Government covenant incentive projects also have a major role in increasing the area of covenant-protected land.
<b>Presence and status of threatened species and communities.</b>	Poor	Decreasing	The diversity of flora and fauna within Greater Shepparton has greatly declined since European settlement and many native species are now rarely observed or extinct within our municipality. The limited data available for specific species indicates that habitat loss and fragmentation is resulting in a continued decline of native species. Almost all of the native vegetation communities present in the City of Greater Shepparton are listed as endangered or vulnerable.
<b>Weed presence and cover</b>	Poor	Static	The vast majority of the City of Greater Shepparton landscape contains non-native agricultural vegetation and weeds. Changes in water availability and land management practices has resulted in reduced weed control on some areas of private land. Weed control legislation has been conflicting so weed control along roadsides had been lacking up until three years ago. Council is currently in the process of developing a Roadside Weed Control Plan.
<b>Stream health</b>	Satisfactory	Improving	Goulburn Broken River Basin index of stream condition data (2010).
<b>Environmental flows</b>	Good	Improving	In 2012/13, 205,015 ML was delivered through GB CMA delivery via Victorian Environmental Water and the Commonwealth Environmental Water holder.

<sup>^</sup> State ratings are a comparison against other non-metro Victorian Councils



### Using our resources wisely

	State <sup>^</sup>	Trend	Comment
<b>Council greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions</b>	High	Decreasing (slowly)	Recent GHG reporting indicates that the implementation of energy efficiency measures is reducing emissions at some Council facilities (i.e. sports stadium and Aquamoves).
<b>Community greenhouse gas emissions</b>	High	Increasing	The only data available is out-dated. New municipal specific data will be available around mid-2014.
<b>Municipal waste generation</b>	High	Increasing	Data from Council Annual Report 2012/13
<b>Waste diverted from landfill</b>	High	Increasing	Data from Council Annual Report 2012/13
<b>Municipal waste to landfill</b>	Moderate	Decreasing	Data from Council Annual Report 2012/13
<b>Municipal waste generation</b>	High	Increasing	Data from Council Annual Report 2012/13
<b>Council water use</b>	Unknown (in relation to other councils)	Decreasing	Data from June 2013, Data to be sourced from State Government agencies by 2015
<b>Residential water use</b>	unknown	unknown	Data to be sourced from State Government agencies by 2015
<b>Industrial water use</b>	unknown	unknown	Data to be sourced from State Government agencies by 2015
<b>Staff Commute methods</b>	unknown	unknown	Data to be sourced by 2015
<b>Community commute methods</b>	unknown	unknown	Data to be sourced by 2015

<sup>^</sup> State ratings are a comparison against other non-metro Victorian Councils

### Our climate

	Historic	Future projections
<b>Temperature</b>	Temperate climatic conditions	Hotter and drier overall
<b>Rainfall</b>	Approximately 450mm, mainly falling in winter and spring	A decrease in the overall quantity of rainfall (especially in spring). Rainfall events will be less frequent but have much higher intensities.
<b>Extreme weather events</b>	Periodic floods and droughts.	An increase in the frequency and severity of severe storms, floods, heatwaves, and droughts.

## 8. Key external drivers

Many external drivers will shape Council's future planning and operations and the ongoing prosperity of the Greater Shepparton region. It is vital that Council is prepared for the impacts and opportunities presented by the following four major drivers to achieve Council's environmental sustainability vision and objectives. The Discussion Paper provides further information on other external drivers, threats, and issues relevant to the implementation of the Strategy.

### Population growth

The City of Greater Shepparton is the fourth largest provincial centre in Victoria and is one of the fastest growing regions in the State. Our municipality's population is currently 62,000 but is forecast to grow to 70,500 in 2021 and 80,000 people in 2031 (ABS 2012).

The City of Greater Shepparton is well located in terms of accessibility to Melbourne (~2hrs) and the possibility of Shepparton being a destination along the proposed high-speed rail route could greatly increase the region's appeal to Melbourne commuters.

Our increasing population will continue to place pressure on our water and energy resources, require more land for urban development and increase the production of waste.

Compounding these pressures is the fact that the average size of households is decreasing so the projected number of dwellings required to house our population will continue to increase at a greater rate than population growth.

### Climate change

Over 97 per cent of peer-reviewed, published scientific papers with a position on human induced global warming agree that global warming is occurring and that humans have caused this warming via our use of fossil fuels (Cook et al. 2013). There is not a single national or major scientific institution anywhere in the world that disputes human-induced climate change (Cook 2013, Doran 2009).

Global warming has a range of agreed climate change impacts including an increased frequency of severe heatwaves and warm extremes, changes in rainfall frequencies and intensities, and an increase in extreme weather events (CSIRO 2011). Both the Australian and Victorian Governments have accepted climate change as a fact and their departments and agencies have incorporated climate change objectives, opportunities and actions in their social, economic and environmental strategies and plans.

By 2030, average annual temperatures in our catchment are projected to be approximately 0.8°C warmer, with the greatest increases expected in spring and summer (DSE 2008). By 2070, the average annual temperature is predicted to increase by a further 1.4°C in the Goulburn Broken under a lower emissions scenario. Under a higher emissions scenario, this increase nearly doubles to 2.7°C (DSE 2008).

Meanwhile, annual rainfall in our catchment is expected to decline by three per cent by 2030, with the greatest reductions expected in spring and winter. Our rainfall events will be less frequent but much heavier than our region has historically experienced (DSE 2008).

The most significant impacts of climate change are more likely to be felt through changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme events, such as droughts, floods, frosts, heatwaves, storms and bushfires. These extreme events along with changes in average temperature and rainfall will affect the regional distribution of some species, water availability and the agricultural crops suited for production in our region.

Scientists agree that the recent prolonged drought and extreme storm events are a result of climate change and these events will become more regular (DAFF 2013).

A range of measures have already commenced to mitigate and adapt to these impacts throughout



the community. These measures include innovations in farming practices, food production and processing to reduce our dependence on water and non-renewable energy consumption.

Council is continuing to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation activities. Methane emitted from the Cosgrove landfill site has been captured and flared to generate electricity since 2010, producing enough electricity to power 900 homes. The implementation of the “Watts Working Better” streetlight replacement project will significantly reduce Council’s annual greenhouse gas emissions.

Council needs to be prepared to support our community to adapt to our changing/future climate. There are going to be great opportunities to attract emerging and renewable or alternate energy industries and businesses to our region and assist our farmers to cultivate new crops.

#### Peak oil

“Peak oil” is the term used to describe the point in time where the maximum rate of oil extraction is reached and production rates thereafter continue to decline (“energy descent”).

A recent oil extraction analysis forecasts that oil production levels in 2030 will be 40 per cent less than in 2012 (Zittel 2013). This fall in oil production will coincide with the continued increase in oil demand along with increasing costs associated with oil extraction from diminishing reserves.

The City of Greater Shepparton is recognised as one of the largest transport and logistics hubs in Victoria and our agricultural, manufacturing and food processing industrial sectors are heavily dependent on road transport.

It is essential that Council works collaboratively with these industries, our community and the Australian and Victorian Governments to ensure that we are prepared as a municipality to adjust to declining oil production.

#### Economic growth and resource consumption

Our economic prosperity has traditionally been dependent on sustained growth and high resource consumption and the City of Greater Shepparton’s economy has traditionally been maintained by strong agricultural, manufacturing and food processing industrial sectors.

Our limited economic diversity means that we are highly exposed to global financial market volatility; exchange rates and the future viability of these sectors are going to be heavily affected by the impacts of climate change, peak oil and population growth.

All human activities consume resources from our planet and produce waste that the planet must then contend with. This resource consumption can be measured to calculate an “ecological footprint”. Overall, humanity’s annual ecological footprint has exceeded the earth’s annual biocapacity levels since the 1980’s (EPA 2013). As a global community, we currently need about 1.3 planets to meet our average consumption levels (EPA 2013).

An average Victorian requires 6.8 global hectares of land to sustain our current lifestyle (a global hectare refers to one hectare (size of a soccer field) of biologically productive space with world-average productivity) (EPA 2013). If every single person on our planet lived like Victorians, the world’s population would need more than four Earths to support us.

The average Victorian’s ecological footprint is very high because we live in large houses; commute long distances; the quantity of goods and services we consume; and our energy needs are predominately sourced from fossil fuels (EPA 2013). The average Victorian also generates just over two tonnes of waste per year, an increase of 29 per cent in the last ten years (DSE 2012).

We are clearly using natural resources at a greater rate than they can be replenished. It is time to explore opportunities to decrease this obviously unsustainable level of consumption.

## 9. Community consultation and major environmental concerns

### Our community

The Greater Shepparton community has a growing base of environmentally conscious community members who are actively promoting environmentally sustainable practices in our municipality.

Many of these community members are members of community environmental groups (Landcare, Transition movement etc.) and donate a significant amount of their time and resources to improve our local environment for the benefit of all residents.

The community members who have participated in Council's engagement activities have demonstrated their knowledge and commitment to improving our environment and are seeking greater leadership from Council on environmental matters. The community repeatedly communicated an expectation that Council should be leading by example with our environmental sustainability activities and a concern that Council is under-resourced in this area.

Our community supports Council in its efforts to integrate sustainable development principles throughout the organisation to improve Council's environmental sustainability performance.

Our community wants to partner with Council to achieve greater environmental outcomes for our region and acknowledges the requirement for longer-term approaches to resolve environmental issues.

Our community recognises that environmental issues and solutions are complex and that Council needs to partner with the relevant government agencies and organisations to ensure that we are all working together to improve our local environment

A strong community engagement process was recognised to be paramount to the development of a relevant and comprehensive Environment Sustainability Strategy. The Greater Shepparton community has contributed feedback to Council

on the region's major environmental issues and on Council's environmental performance on four occasions over the last two years.

### *Community Environment Values and Behaviours Survey 2011*

A total of 143 residents participated in this survey which was available via a number of avenues.

The most concerning response was to the question "What does Council currently do to protect and enhance our environment?" Thirty per cent of respondents stated that they were unsure or believed that Council does nothing or very little to protect and enhance the environment. Almost a third of the Greater Shepparton community has either a lack of knowledge or a negative perception relating to Council's environmental management.

Refer to Appendix XII of the Discussion Paper for a survey results summary report.

### *Auspoll Community Satisfaction Survey 2012*

Sixty per cent of our residents who participated in the Auspoll Community Satisfaction Survey rated the importance for Council to be a community leader in environment and sustainability management as either very high (22 per cent) or high (38 per cent).

In contrast, only 21 per cent of the respondents gave satisfaction ratings of either very high (3 per cent) or high (18 per cent) for Council's performance in managing the natural environment. Twenty per cent of respondents gave performance satisfaction ratings of either very high (3 per cent) or high (17 per cent) to this when asked about their satisfaction with Council's performance in ensuring that the design and development of the built environment is environmentally sustainable

### *Environmental Sustainability Strategy - Discussion Paper*

Eighty-five responses were received during the discussion paper community consultation period containing more than 1050 specific comments

relating to environmental issues, the contents of the discussion paper or ideas for the strategy's implementation.

Attendees of the four community workshops (Dookie, Shepparton, Mooroopna and Tatura) were also asked to rate both the importance of and Council's past performance at fulfilling our environmental roles and responsibilities using a similar format to the Auspoll survey.

Again, a large gap existed between the community's perception of Council's performance and the importance of fulfilling our responsibilities. Council scored quite poorly for our environmental performance overall, particularly for our performance in relation to our climate change, energy management and land and biodiversity activities.

Overall, the overwhelming majority of feedback and comments received on the discussion paper contained highly constructive remarks relating to environmental management issues and how Council can achieve positive outcomes on these matters. Comments that related to Council's efforts to develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy were also very positive.

The major concern for our community is that Council must put this Strategy to practical use and implement its action plan. Scepticism was expressed that Council is very good at developing plans and strategies but has performed poorly when it comes to the implementation of these strategies.

Ninety-four per cent of the comments that gave a specific view on the discussion paper as an overall document and the importance of Council being in the process of developing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy were positive and the only negative comments were that the document was too long and that it would not achieve its objectives.

#### *Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014-2030) and Action Plan (2014-2017)*

Council received 33 community submissions and 22 staff responses to the Draft Strategy containing over 400 specific comments.

Of the 72 general comments received about the Draft Strategy, 69 were positive and only three were negative. Positive comments related to the comprehensiveness, structure and honesty of the document and consultation process.

The majority of the feedback received was positive about the content or identified some minor omissions so the structure of the Draft Strategy and Final Strategy are the same.

The vast majority of the comments received during all Strategy development consultation phases were very positive about Council being in the process of developing an Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

The major recurring comments and concerns of our community are:

- Improve the utilisation of Council planning controls, local-laws and legislation to achieve positive environmental outcome and improve the compliance and enforcement rates of these tools.
- There is a lack of community understanding about the different environmental roles and responsibilities of Council and Victorian Government departments and agencies.
- A disconnect exists between parts of our community and our environment. There is a substantial amount of ignorance and general malaise towards environmental issues due to a lack of understanding and awareness of the value of our environment.
- Concerns about population growth and the corresponding development and resource availability pressures.
- Illegal firewood collection, rubbish dumping and littering along road reserves and public land.

- Improve the viability of local populations of native fauna and flora via protection and enhancement activities.
- Lack of control of noxious weeds and pests on private and public land.
- Improve stormwater management to reduce the quantities of pollutants and litter that wash into our waterways.
- Reduce Council's energy usage to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and financial costs. Council should also be greatly increasing its use

## 10. Council capacity and role

The role of local government has traditionally been focused on providing infrastructure and service functions for their ratepayers. Over the last few decades, there has been a substantial expansion in responsibilities, in particular the provision of functions relating to community development and environmental management.

There has been a significant increase in environmental policy and legislation that local government must comply with over this time. Council is required to contend with the large scale and complexity of complying with environment legislation across all Council operations and delivering positive environmental outcomes with a limited capacity of resources.

Council endeavours to operate according to environmental best practice, undertake efforts to collaborate with, engage and educate our community to facilitate better environmental outcomes for our region and utilise our planning and enforcement powers to influence environmental behaviour.

Council acknowledges that the achievement of our environmental mission is beyond the capacity of Council to achieve on our own. Council will explore opportunities to collaborate with other agencies, organisations and the community to achieve positive environmental outcomes.

of renewable energy sources, especially via the installation of solar panels on public buildings.

- A collaborative approach is required by Council, stakeholder agencies and community groups to work together with the wider community to achieve our environmental objectives.
- Lack of awareness and understanding in the community and within Council regarding the impacts that climate change will have on our region.

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that we have a wide range of roles and responsibilities to perform in regards to environmental sustainability management to protect and enhance our environment. These roles include advocator, manager, educator, facilitator, provider, regulator, lobbyist, encourager and community leader.

Council will utilise the roles above depending on the degree of Council's responsibility for action.

- Full responsibility* – Council can provide leadership via our own activities, use our regulatory or enforcement powers, or provide services to support our community to act in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Partial responsibility* – Council shares responsibility with other agencies. Council can partner, support and encourage other agencies to develop environmental solutions or undertake positive environmental behaviours.
- No direct responsibility* – Council can choose to advocate, lobby or encourage the agencies that do have the responsibility to achieve better environmental outcomes. In circumstances where no-one appears to have responsibility Council can evaluate the importance of the issue then advocate, lobby or encourage an appropriate agency to take responsibility.



## 11. Council's environmental commitment

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to the achievement of a sustainable way of life for current and future generations through a shared understanding of sustainability.

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that:

- ✓ The future prosperity of the residents of the City of Greater Shepparton is dependent upon a healthy environment to sustain us.
- ✓ Overall, the natural environment within the City of Greater Shepparton is currently in a poor ecological state.
- ✓ The path to improving environmental behaviours in our community requires a multifaceted approach from Council focusing on a combination of enforcement, education and awareness, and improved infrastructure activities.
- ✓ Council has a wide range of roles to perform in regards to environmental sustainability management to protect and enhance our environment (outlined on page 16).

Council will achieve our commitments by meeting our environmental sustainability management roles and responsibilities, which have been divided into the following six strategic themes throughout the Strategy.

1. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)
2. Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources
3. Using our resources wisely - climate change and energy efficiency
4. Using our resources wisely - waste and resource efficiency
5. Sustainable planning, development and transport
6. Council governance and operations

### 1. Protect and enhance our natural assets (land and biodiversity)

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that:

- ✓ Less than 2.5 per cent of the pre-European settlement native vegetation remains in the City of Greater Shepparton. This vegetation is generally in a poor ecological state and under constant threat from further degradation. The native fauna dependant on this vegetation for habitat is also under significant threat.
- ✓ Our municipality's remnant native vegetation has significant environmental and cultural value. From the larger expanses of vegetation along our waterways, to smaller patches on private land, and particularly the scattered, isolated paddock trees, this vegetation is contributing to the environmental health of our municipality and requires improved protection.
- ✓ Council has a major role to play to protect and enhance the biodiversity assets that remain in the City of Greater Shepparton.

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to the protection and enhancement of our native flora and fauna assets.

Council has demonstrated this commitment by undertaking considerable tree planting activities including the Crouching Emu Revegetation Project, the Seeds and Trees for the Future Project and National Tree Day. Council also offers a rate rebate for landholders who have a Trust for Nature covenant site on their property.

### 2. Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources.

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that:

- ✓ Past water use in the City of Greater Shepparton was largely unsustainable and has contributed to the degradation of environmental assets in our region and beyond.
- ✓ Council has an important role to ensure that the City of Greater Shepparton has healthy, productive and sustainable water resources.

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to reducing our water use and minimising the quantity of litter and pollutants that enter our waterways via stormwater runoff.

Council activities have demonstrated this commitment through the installation of gross pollutant traps, the creation of urban stormwater treatment wetlands and the utilisation of water sensitive urban design principles at new developments.

### 3. Using our resources wisely - climate change and energy efficiency

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that:

- ✓ Climate change is occurring and is beginning to have an impact on our local climate.
- ✓ Our region will face many challenges due to our climate getting hotter and drier, and that Council needs to be preparing for these impacts and identifying the opportunities that present.

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to reducing our energy usage from fossil fuels and the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

Council has commenced activities that demonstrate this commitment including the methane capture and electricity generation at the Cosgrove landfill site, the installation of cogeneration technology at Aquamoves and the implementation of the “Watts Working Better” streetlight replacement project (Greater Shepparton is the lead Council for this catchment wide project).

### 4. Using our resources wisely - waste and resource efficiency

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that:

- ✓ There are significant costs associated with sending waste to landfill and that our projected population increases will continue to put pressure on our waste reduction targets.
- ✓ Council has provided very good services and facilities to our rate payers but significant waste

management issues exist including rubbish dumping and littering.

- ✓ Opportunities to improve pre-sorting of community and industry generated waste needs to be explored further to decrease the quantity of waste going to landfill.
- ✓ Planning for landfill alternates needs to be part of Council’s long-term planning.

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to achieving the Victorian Governments landfill and resource recovery targets and identifying solutions to rubbish dumping and littering issues.

Council is recognised as an industry leader for our waste recovery efforts in rural Victoria. Council won a Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria – Towards Zero Waste Award in 2009 for providing the community with a variety of recycling initiatives at the Shepparton Transfer Station to reduce the amount of material sent to landfill.

### 5. Sustainable urban planning, development and transport

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that:

- ✓ The urban development and infrastructure designs that have been approved by Council in past decades may restrict the lifestyle activities and choices made by future generations.
- ✓ A return to more self-sustaining, resilient local communities is a preferred option where local people purchase locally supplied goods and services, reduce their commute distances, and utilise public transport and active (walking and cycling) travel methods.

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to maximising the environmental sustainability benefits of our urban environments including sustainable building design, improving the sustainability of land developments and increase community access to public transport and active (walking and cycling) travel methods. Shepparton’s Council-maintained shared path network received recognition when Shepparton was voted Australia’s second-best walking town in 2010 and the fourth best in 2012.

## 6. Council governance and operations

Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges that:

- ✓ Our community looks towards Council for leadership, guidance and direction in relation to environmental management and sustainable development.
- ✓ Human activities have degraded our environment and the everyday activities and decisions made by Council and the residents of the City of Greater Shepparton can have a significant impact on the future health of our environment.

Greater Shepparton City Council is committed to embracing our community leadership role by incorporating environmental sustainability

principles throughout our organisation and through our interactions with the broader community.

The decisions that Council makes regarding policies, projects, and other activities that impact upon the natural environment will be based on reliable scientific evidence and technical findings.

Council is embedding a culture of environmental sustainability within the organisation and has commenced integrating environmental sustainability considerations into decision-making policies and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) directives such as the Sustainability CEO Directive, Fleet CEO Directive, and the Procurement Policy.



Figure 7: Council staff and Mayor Jenny Houlihan celebrate the launch of the Goulburn Valley Carpooling Project.

### Section Three: Strategic Framework

This section contains the strategic framework that the Strategy will operate within, including an outline of the strategy’s mission, visions, key directions, objectives and consequential environmental outcomes that will result from the implementation of this strategy.

Figure 8 provides the strategic framework hierarchy that will lead to the achievement of positive environmental outcomes for the Greater Shepparton environment (identified in Chapter 15).

Specific actions to achieve the strategy’s objectives are outlined in Section Four, the Strategy Action Plan. The action plan contains actions to be implemented across the next four years to achieve the major objectives of the Strategy. The four-year action plan will be updated as part of the Strategy review process that will occur every four years.



Figure 8: The strategic framework heirarchy for the Environmental Sustainability Strategy



## 12. Our mission and visions

The **mission** of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy is:

*To improve Council's environmental sustainability performance by imbedding environmental sustainability considerations into Council's decision-making processes and operational activities.*

Implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy will facilitate the achievement of the following three **visions**:

1. Our municipality: *Our healthy, vibrant, and resilient natural environment can sustain the long-term prosperity of our municipality for generations to come.*
2. Our organisation: *Greater Shepparton City Council is respected and recognised by our community, stakeholders and peers for leading by example on environmental issues and achieving positive environmental outcomes from our decision-making processes and operational activities.*
3. Our community: *Our environmentally conscious and well-informed community demonstrate that they value our environment by incorporating sustainability principles into their everyday activities and by their involvement in local environmental protection and enhancement activities.*

## 13. Strategic themes

Council's environmental sustainability management roles and responsibilities and the objectives and actions outlined in this Strategy to fulfil them are divided into the following six strategic themes. – from page 17, Section 2?

1. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity).

This theme includes Council activities relating to native fauna and flora, pest plant and animal control, firewood management, native vegetation offsets, cultural site protection etc.

2. Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources.

This theme includes Council activities that affect the water quality of our waterways and wetlands, such as stormwater and domestic wastewater management. Water consumption and flood management are also included under this theme.

3. Using our resources wisely - climate change and energy efficiency.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation activities such as reducing Council's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, increasing our community's awareness of climate change impacts and opportunities, and attracting innovative renewable and alternative energy industries/businesses to our municipality sit under this theme.

4. Using our resources wisely - waste and resource efficiency.

This theme includes Council activities aiming to increase the recovery of resources to decrease the quantity of waste going to landfill, reduce incidences of rubbish dumping and littering and maximise the environmental benefits from Council's purchasing activities.

5. Sustainable planning, development and transport.

Objectives and actions to improve the environmental sustainability considerations and outcomes from urban developments, and preparing for "energy descent" by reducing the municipality's dependence on fossil fuel transportation are included under this theme.

6. Council governance and operations.

Activities that facilitate a cultural shift in decision-making to improve Council's environmental sustainability performance, providing the resources required to implement this strategy and the commencement of annual environmental sustainability reporting on our activities and achievements are key components of this theme.

## 14. Key directions

The objectives and actions for each strategic theme are categorised into four key directions:

### 1. Leading by example

The desire for Council to lead by example on environmental sustainability issues has been a strong recurring message from the Greater Shepparton community and from Council staff. Objectives and actions where Council can lead by example by improving our environmental performance are included under this key direction.

### 2. Using planning and regulation powers

Council can influence the activities and management decisions occurring in the community that are having a negative impact on our environment via our regulation and enforcement powers. The Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme, Australian and Victorian Government regulations, and local laws are all regulatory tools available to Council to improve environmental sustainability outcomes.

### 3. Enable and empower our community

Our environmentally informed, active, and passionate community are looking to Council for support and assistance to continue accomplishing positive environmental outcomes. Living sustainably is a community-wide responsibility, Council will explore opportunities to collaborate with and support our community to understand, and embrace such changes to lifestyles, individually and as communities.

### 4. Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders

Many barriers and enablers for improving environmentally sustainable behaviours and outcomes in our region lie outside of Council's direct control. Council will endeavour to strengthen our partnerships with government agencies and key stakeholders to advocate for environmental improvements for our region and beyond.



Figure 9: The achievements of the Crouching Emu Revegetation Project demonstrate the significant outcomes possible when the State Government, Council and our community work in partnership to improve our local environment. These photos show that significant environmental improvements are possible over very short time periods. This roadside was planted in 2008 (left) whilst the photo on the right was taken three years later (2011).

## 15. Environmental objectives and aspirational environmental outcomes

This chapter outlines the objectives of the Strategy and the aspirational environmental outcomes that Council intends to achieve during the life of the Strategy. These outcomes will be assessed against the most recently available state of the environment data (sourced mostly from State Government agencies) during the Strategy review process (every four years) and when the Strategy has reached the end of its life in 2030. The outcomes listed in the tables below provide a description of what Council seeks to achieve from the implementation of this Strategy. The performance indicators/targets listed in the action plan will measure the success of the Strategy's action plan.

**Table 1: Strategy objectives for each Strategic Theme and the aspirational environmental outcomes that Council aims to achieve.**

Theme	Key Direction	Objective	Aspirational environmental outcomes
1: Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)	<b>Leading by example</b>	2.1 Protect and enhance remnant native vegetation and to maximise the biodiversity values of Council owned and managed land.	<p>The total area of high habitat and conservation value native vegetation in the municipality is increased.</p> <p>The connectivity between patches of native vegetation is increased.</p> <p>The amount and quality of native vegetation in urban areas is increased.</p> <p>The presence of key threatened species in the municipality is increased.</p> <p>The habitat available for key threatened species to utilise in the urban areas is increased.</p> <p>The presence of introduced pest species is decreased.</p> <p>The diversity and cover of weed species is decreased.</p>
	<b>Planning and regulation powers</b>	2.2 Regulate land use, development and amenity to achieve best practice land and biodiversity outcomes.	<p>The total area of high habitat and conservation value native vegetation in the municipality is increased.</p> <p>The presence of key threatened species in the municipality is increased</p>
	<b>Enable and empower our community</b>	2.3 Partner with, support and empower our community to increase the biodiversity values of private and public land.	<p>The area of native vegetation enhanced or protected per year is increased.</p> <p>Connectivity between patches of native vegetation is increased.</p> <p>The number of people and community groups attending Landcare or other planting efforts is increased.</p> <p>The number of National Tree Day activity participants (schools, community members and groups) is increased.</p> <p>The number of corporations (SPC Ardmona, Campbell's etc.) attending planting efforts is increased.</p>
	<b>Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders</b>	2.4 Advocate and collaborate with government agencies and key stakeholders to protect and enhance the municipality's biodiversity assets.	<p>The area of land managed for conservation is increased.</p> <p>The area of native vegetation in the municipality is increased.</p> <p>The presence of key locally threatened species in the municipality is increased.</p> <p>The presence of introduced pest species is decreased.</p> <p>The number of Council involved partnership programs is increased.</p> <p>The number of successful funding applications is increased.</p>

Theme	Key Direction	Objective	Aspirational environmental outcomes
2: Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources	Leading by example	2.1 Reduce Council's water consumption and maximise water reuse.	Council's potable water consumption per head of population is reduced. Council's non-potable water consumption per head of population is reduced. The number of Council owned or managed buildings and facilities with rainwater storage tanks is increased.
		2.2 Utilise Council's water management responsibilities to improve water quality across the municipality.	Potential water contamination from Council owned and managed septic systems is minimised. Pollutants and contaminants that flow into our waterways from urban stormwater runoff are reduced.
		2.3 Ensure that Council is prepared for flood events.	Flood monitoring stations are maintained. Floodplain management plans are reviewed as necessary.
	Planning and regulation powers	2.4 Utilise Council's planning and regulation powers to achieve healthy, productive, and sustainable water resources.	Community potable and non-potable water consumption is minimised at new residential and commercial buildings. Pollutants and contaminants that flow into our waterways from urban stormwater runoff are reduced. Potential water contamination from Council owned and managed septic systems is minimised.
	Enable and empower our community	2.5 Partner with, support and empower our community to achieve healthy, productive and sustainable water resources.	Reduce community potable and non-potable water consumption. Pollutants and contaminants that flow into our waterways from urban stormwater runoff are reduced.
	Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders.	2.6 Advocate and collaborate with government agencies to improve water quality, promote efficient water use and improve flood mitigation management across the municipality.	The number of Council involved partnership programs is increased. The number of successful funding applications is increased. Flood monitoring stations are maintained. Floodplain management plans are reviewed as necessary.



Theme	Key Direction	Objective	Aspirational environmental outcomes
3: Using our resources wisely - climate change and energy efficiency	<b>Leading by example</b>	3.1 Reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions and the financial costs of Council's energy use.	Greenhouse gas emissions from Council priority facilities and plant are reduced. The number of Council owned or managed buildings/facilities using renewable energy sources is increased. The number of climate change adaption measures implemented at Council priority facilities is increased. Whole of life costs are incorporated in project planning (including Sustainability and Environment checklists, Integrated Project Management (IPM), InterPlan etc.).
		3.2 Ensure that Council is prepared for the impacts and opportunities presented by climate change .	Greenhouse gas emissions from Council priority facilities and plant are reduced. The number of climate change mitigation measures implemented at Council priority facilities is increased. The average star rating for new Council buildings is increased.
		3.3 Encourage and attract innovative renewable and alternative energy industries/ businesses development within our municipality.	Innovative renewable or alternative energy industries or businesses move to, or establish their operations in Greater Shepparton.
	<b>Enable and empower our community</b>	3.4 Increase the energy efficiency of existing and new residential and commercial buildings across the municipality.	Community greenhouse gas emissions are reduced. The number of new residential and commercial buildings that go beyond the minimum star rating requirements is increased.
		3.5 Support our businesses, industries and residents to live more efficiently and sustainably.	Community greenhouse gas emissions are reduced. Council support for community groups is increased. Council support for community events is increased.
	<b>Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders</b>	3.6 Partner with Government agencies and regional stakeholders to support the establishment of sustainable agricultural practices.	The knowledge and capacity of our regions farmers, farm advisers and agribusiness industries to respond to the opportunities and impacts of climate change is increased
		3.7 Maximise partnership opportunities to reduce Council and community greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the opportunities and challenges of climate change.	The number of Council involved partnership programs is increased. The number of successful funding applications is increased. The Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance continues to receive Council support.

Theme	Key Direction	Objective	Aspirational environmental outcomes
4: Using our resources wisely - Waste and resource efficiency	<b>Leading by example</b>	4.1 Minimise Council's consumption of resources.	The volume of Council generated waste going to landfill is reduced. The purchasing of recognised recycled and/or environmentally preferable products by Council is increased.
		4.2 Provide (as far as practicable) best practice waste management services to the Greater Shepparton community	Council achieves the State Government's municipal waste targets. The volume of waste going to landfill is reduced.
		4.3 Lead by example to demonstrate that our local environment is valued by voluntarily cleaning up a specific location.	The environmental value of a reach of the Goulburn River (as part of the RiverConnect Adopt-a-Reach Project) is directly improved from Council staff volunteer activities.
	<b>Planning and regulation powers</b>	4.4 Reduce the incidence of rubbish dumping and the prevalence of litter along roadsides and other areas of public land.	Occurrences of rubbish dumping across the municipality are reduced. Littering behaviours of the Greater Shepparton community are improved.
	<b>Enable and empower our community</b>	4.5 Increase the recovery of resources and minimise the quantity of waste going to landfill.	Council achieves the State Government's municipal waste targets. The volume of industry generated waste going to landfill is reduced.
		4.6 Our community discards waste responsibly by utilising Council's waste management services and facilities.	Occurrences of rubbish dumping across the municipality are reduced. Littering behaviours of the Greater Shepparton community are improved.
	<b>Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders</b>	4.7 Maximise collaboration opportunities with Government agencies, stakeholders and other Local Governments.	The number of Council involved partnership programs is increased. The number of successful funding applications is increased.

Theme	Key Direction	Objective	Aspirational environmental outcomes
5: Sustainable development, planning and transport	Leading by example	5.1 Pursue best practice in sustainable development, planning, and transport.	Council is prepared for the impacts of “peak oil” and “energy descent”. The Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) is utilised to achieve best practice environmental sustainability development outcomes across the City of Greater Shepparton.
		5.2 Reduce the environmental impacts of Council staff travel requirements.	Environmental impacts are minimised from Council’s fleet purchases. The number of staff who commute via walking or cycling is increased. The number of staff who commute via car-pooling is increased.
		5.3 Reduce the municipality’s dependence on personal, fossil fuel powered transportation.	Non-fossil fuel and public transport community infrastructure is improved. The number of residents who partake in (or commute via) walking or cycling activities is increased. The number of residents who commute via car-pooling is increased.
	Planning and regulation powers	5.4 Embed Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) principles into all development, planning and transport activities within the City of Greater Shepparton.	Relevant statements/overlays are incorporated into the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) of the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.
	Enable and empower our community	5.5 Partner with, support and empower our community to reduce vehicle use and achieve sustainable development and lifestyles across the municipality.	The number of residents who partake in (or commute via) walking or cycling activities is increased. The number of residents who commute via car-pooling is increased. The number of people growing home-grown food or using community hub and Kidstown facilities to grow food is increased.
	Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders	5.6 Lobby Governments and collaborate with other key stakeholders to increase sustainable development outcomes and minimise vehicle use.	The number of Council involved partnership programs is increased. The number of successful funding applications is increased.

Theme	Key Direction	Objective	Aspirational environmental outcomes
6: Council governance and operations	<b>Leading by example</b>	6.1 Provide open and transparent reporting on environmental sustainability performance.	Annual reports are produced on Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements. Environmental sustainability benchmarks are established to report against.
		6.2 Ensure that Council has the culture, resources, and staff to deliver our environmental sustainability objectives.	Council supports and commits to resource the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy four-year action plan. Environmental sustainability outcomes from Council operations and activities are improved. Council supports the Sustainable Working Group to implement Environmental Sustainability Strategy actions addressing organisational culture and behaviour change.
		6.3 Council officers have the skills, knowledge and capacity to achieve Council's environmental sustainability objectives.	Environmental sustainability (procurement, ECO-buy etc.) training is available to relevant staff. Relevant training and professional development opportunities identified during annual Sustainability and Environment Team staff PES (Performance Evaluation System) appraisals are budgeted and approved.
		6.4 Ensure that environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities.	Council reports, projects, and procurement activities include environmental sustainability considerations.
	<b>Planning &amp; regulation powers</b>	6.5 Ensure that Council utilises the most effective and practical planning and regulation powers.	Council enforcement and compliance staff are knowledgeable about whom is in the best position to achieve the best outcomes under the relevant legislation to improve community compliance into the future.
	<b>Enable and empower our community</b>	6.6 Our community is well informed and knowledgeable about Councils environmental sustainability activities and achievements.	The community is knowledgeable about Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements. Council receives an improved environmental sustainability performance rating score in the bi-annual Auspoll Community Survey.
		6.7 Our community is well informed and knowledgeable about environmental sustainability issues in our municipality	The community has an increased understanding of the importance of Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements. Council receives an improved environmental sustainability importance rating score in the bi-annual Auspoll Community Survey.
		6.8 Promote and/or support the environmental protection and enhancement activities currently occurring in the municipality.	Council support for community members and/or groups to undertake environmental protection and enhancement activities is increased.
	<b>Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders</b>	6.9 Stakeholders are informed and engaged in the implementation of this Strategy.	Council supports the formation of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Stakeholder Advisory Committee.
		6.10 Advocate and collaborate with government agencies and stakeholders to improve environmental management outcomes.	The quality of state of our environment data for the City of Greater Shepparton is improved. The number of Council involved partnership programs is increased. The number of successful funding applications is increased.



## **Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017**

The Action Plan 2014-2017 outlines the actions that Council will endeavour to implement over the next four years (subject to budget approval and external funding opportunities). This action plan will be replaced with a new four-year action plan at the completion of the Strategy review process (to be conducted in 2017). Page 46 provides an acronyms list of the partnership organisations and groups that will assist with the implementation of the Strategy.

The timelines for each performance indicator/target is listed as:

- ST = Short term – Council aims to complete the performance indicator/target by the end 2014/15 financial year (within 18 months).
- MT = Medium term – Council aims to complete the performance indicator/target during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years.
- LT = Long term - Council aims to commence the implementation of the performance indicator/target during the lifespan of the Action plan 2014-2017 but the completion of these actions may occur after the review of the Strategy in 2017.
- OG = Ongoing – Implementation of the performance indicator/target will occur annually across the duration of the Action Plan.

1. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Leading by example		1.1.1 Develop, review and implement key land and biodiversity strategies and ensure these documents are informed by State and Federal Government land and biodiversity policy considerations.	Review current plans/strategies			Sustainability & Environment
			- Roadside Management Strategy	ST	Operational expenditure (\$30K)	
			- Cussen Park Management Plan		Internal staff time	
			Develop new plans/strategies			
			- "Mooroopna Sandhills" Management Plan	MT	Internal staff time	
			- Boulevard Bushland Reserve Management Plan	ST		
			- Native Vegetation Risk Management CEO Directive			
			- Benefits of Large Trees, Benefits of Urban Trees factsheets	MT	Operational expenditure (\$3K)	
			Complete 80% of the actions identified in the Strategic Framework for Managing Native Vegetation on Road Reserves	MT	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
			1.1.2 Manage Council parks, gardens and other outdoor areas to encourage the community to appreciate our natural land and biodiversity assets.	Review current plans/strategies		
		- Street Tree Master Plan		OG	Internal staff time	
		- Urban Character Study			ST (\$48K)/seek funding avenues	
		- Roadside Weed and Rabbit Control Plan				
		Develop new plans/strategies:				
- Significant Tree Register(urban/rural, private/public)	MT	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues				

## **Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017**

<b>1. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)</b>							
<b>Key direction</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance indicators /targets</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>	<b>Responsibility *Lead branch</b>	
<b>Leading by example</b>			- Explore the feasibility of developing an Urban Pest Control Plan	MT	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues		
			- Explore the feasibility of developing a Weed Management Strategy				
			- Parks 2050 Strategy	MT			
			Adequately maintain walking/shared paths at community access sites on an ongoing basis so that community complaints (outside of intervention level) are less than fifteen per annum.	OG			
			1.1.3 Utilise Council’s Geographical Information System (GIS) to manage biodiversity and landscape assets within the City of Greater Shepparton.	Commence Geographical Information System (GIS) data share agreements with government agencies and academic institutions by 2015 (free service).	ST	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
				Develop a Geographical Information System (GIS) data updating system in conjunction with relevant agencies academic institutions by 2016 (free service).			
				Develop a risk management “environmental warning system” for outdoor works programs by 2016.	MT		
			1.1.4 Implement actions to reduce the incidence of illegal firewood collection.	Develop an annual media campaign (including a minimum circulation of four communications per year via traditional and social media avenues).	ST	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
				Signs produced and placed at key locations by 2015 (in conjunction with Parks Victoria).			
				Explore the feasibility of establishing a community woodlot.	MT		
<b>Planning and regulation powers</b>	1.2 To regulate land use, development and amenity to achieve best practice land and biodiversity outcomes.	1.2.1 Investigate opportunities to utilise the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme to protect biodiversity and landscape assets within the City of Greater Shepparton.	Complete the investigation, mapping and statements of significance process for relevant zones/overlays.	ST	Internal staff time /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment	
			Implement the above into the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.	MT	Operational expenditure (\$2.5K)	Planning	

## **Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017**

<b>1. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)</b>								
<b>Key direction</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance indicators /targets</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>	<b>Responsibility *Lead branch</b>		
<b>Planning and regulation powers</b>		1.2.2 Investigate opportunities to utilise the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme to achieve best practice to minimise the removal of remnant native vegetation across the municipality.	Strengthen the Municipal Strategic Statement to acknowledge the significance of remnant native vegetation types and communities in the City of Greater Shepparton and the importance of applying the “avoid” and “minimise” principles to non-referred ‘low risk’ native vegetation removal permit applications.	MT	Internal staff time	*Sustainability & Environment (strategic reporting), Planning (implementation)		
			Monitor and report annually to Council and the community on the quantity of native vegetation retained and removed across the City of Greater Shepparton.	OG				
			Explore the feasibility of introducing an over the counter native vegetation offset scheme.	MT			Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
		1.2.3 Communicate with existing & prospective landholders to increase understanding of their land & biodiversity obligations & responsibilities.	Develop and circulate factsheets outlining land and biodiversity related obligations and responsibilities for landholders.	MT	Operational expenditure (3K)/seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment		
		1.2.4 Reduce illegal activity concerning Local Laws and the Planning Scheme and improve the enforcement of planning permit conditions – check with Planning & LL.	Commence annual auditing and report on the outcomes from Local Law and Planning Scheme breaches.	MT	Internal staff time	Planning		
			Commence an auditing and reporting program to monitor planning permit condition compliance.			Local Laws		
			Achieve a reduction in the number of Planning Scheme breaches over the life of this Action Plan.			Planning		
			Achieve a reduction in the number of Local Law breaches over the life of this Action Plan.			Local Laws		
		<b>Enable and empower our community</b>	1.3 To partner with, support and empower our community to increase the biodiversity values of private and public land.	1.3.1 Develop an environmental appreciation and awareness program to raise our community’s connection to and understanding of the value of our biodiversity assets.	Construct interpretive and QR signage at a minimum of six sites of biodiversity significance (VPL, Reedy Swamp).	MT	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
					Develop a biodiversity educational display			
Continue Council’s rate rebate program for Trust for Nature covenanted properties.	OG							
A minimum of two local organisations and 20 individual community members attend Council organised land and biodiversity related events annually.								

## **Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017**

<b>1. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)</b>						
<b>Key direction</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Performance indicators /targets</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>	<b>Responsibility *Lead branch</b>
<b>Enable and empower our community</b>		1.3.2 Develop and implement a community environmental action program.	Support a minimum of six community (Landcare, community plan committees etc.) groups annually to undertake activities to improve local biodiversity.	OG	Operational expenditure	Sustainability & Environment
			Support a minimum of two community biodiversity related events annually.			
			A minimum of two local organisations and 20 individual community members attend these events annually.	OG	Operational expenditure	Sustainability & Environment
<b>Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders</b>	1.4 Advocate and collaborate with government agencies and key stakeholders to protect and enhance the municipality's biodiversity assets.	1.4.1 Foster regional resource sharing and partnerships between other local governments, government agencies and other key stakeholders to deliver key projects.	Develop (and implement) a strategic (catchment wide) offset program to target regionally and State threatened, FFG listed, and/or EPBC listed species and communities	MT	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Develop (and implement) a strategic biodiversity connectivity protection and establishment program to target regionally and State threatened, FFG listed, and/or EPBC listed species and communities.			
			Continue Council's support for key partnership programs (RiverConnect, Dookie Biolinks, GB LGBRG).	OG		Sustainability & Environment
		1.4.2 Advocate with Government departments and agencies to maximise opportunities to protect and enhance the municipality's biodiversity assets.	Work with State Government departments and agencies to improve native vegetation considerations and biodiversity outcomes in Whole Farms Plans.	MT	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
	Council applies for external funding annually for the implementation of land and biodiversity actions and activities.	OG				

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

2. Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Leading by example	2.1 Reduce Council’s water consumption and maximise water reuse.	2.1.1 Review the Sustainable Water Use Plan (SWUP). Implement the recommendations and actions included in this strategy.	Review the Sustainable Water Use Plan.	ST	Operational expenditure (\$25K)	Sustainability & Environment
			Implement 80% of SWUP actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
			Identify new potable and non-potable water reduction targets in the reviewed SWUP.			
	2.2 Utilise Council’s water management responsibilities to improve water quality across the municipality.	2.2.1 Review the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP). Implement the recommendations and actions included in this plan.	Review the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan	ST	Internal staff time/ seek funding avenues	Environmental Health
			Implement 80% of all DWMP actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
			Initiate a Domestic Wastewater Management Program (to monitor for compliance of septic tank/septic systems)	MT	Operational expenditure (\$250K)/ seek funding avenues	
		2.2.2 Review the Greater Shepparton Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). Implement the recommendations and actions included in this plan.	Review the Greater Shepparton Stormwater Management Plan	ST	Operational expenditure (\$25K)	Sustainability & Environment
			Implement 80% of all SWMP actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
			Participate in regional water quality programs.			
	2.3 Ensure that Council is prepared for flood events.	2.3.1 Continue to provide flood and floodplain management plans for the municipality.	Maintain Council’s flood monitoring stations as required.	OG	Operational expenditure (\$30K) /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Complete reviews of floodplain management plans as required.		Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
			Continue to participate in the Northern Region Water Monitoring Partnership Program (NRWMPP)	OG	Internal staff time	



## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

2. Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Planning and regulation powers	2.4 Utilise Council’s planning and regulation powers to achieve healthy, productive and sustainable water resources.	2.4.1 Investigate opportunities to utilise the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme to ensure that land use and development across the municipality has minimal impacts on our waterways and wetland assets.	Complete the investigation, mapping and statements of significance process for relevant zones/overlays.	ST	Internal staff time /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Implement the above into the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.	MT	Operational expenditure (\$2.5K)	Planning
		2.4.2 Reduce Local Laws and Planning Scheme breaches and improve the enforcement of planning permit conditions.	Commence annual auditing and report on the outcomes from Local Law and planning Scheme breaches (stakeholders such as the EPA will be involved).	MT	Internal staff time	Planning Local Laws
Enable and empower our community	2.5 Partner with, support and empower our community to achieve healthy, productive and sustainable water resources.	2.5.1 Partner with and empower our community to reduce water use and maximise water reuse.	Support a minimum of four community groups (community plan committees etc.) or local businesses supported annually to conserve water.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Support a minimum of two water conservation themed community events annually.			
		2.5.2 Support our community/ community groups and local businesses to monitor and improve the water quality of our water ways and wetlands.	Support a minimum of four community groups (community plan committees etc.) or local businesses annually to improve local water quality.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Support a minimum of two water quality themed community events annually.		Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
		2.5.3 Enhance the community’s connection to and appreciation for the Goulburn and Broken River environments.	Implement 80% of RiverConnect Strategic Plan actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Increase the community’s participation during RiverConnect activities.			
	Investigate opportunities to engage local businesses and organisations to participate in the “adopt a reach” program.	ST	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues			

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

2. Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Enable and empower our community			Explore the feasibility of expanding the RiverConnect Project to river communities beyond Shepparton/Mooroopna.	MT	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
		2.5.4 Develop a community appreciation and awareness campaign to educate and raise our community's understanding of water consumption and quality issues.	Develop a community appreciation and awareness campaign.	ST	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
			Promote water consumption and quality issues and opportunities via social media at least twice a year.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
			Circulate biannual water consumption and quality media releases to media outlets.			
			Monitor the use of QR (Quick Reference) signage at Council managed bioremediation wetlands	OG	Internal staff time	
Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders	2.6 Advocate and collaborate with government agencies to improve water quality, promote efficient water use and improve flood mitigation management across the municipality.	2.6.1 Lobby, advocate and collaborate with agencies, stakeholders and other local governments to explore opportunities to address water management issues	Continue to support water related partnership programs (Catchment Salinity Asset Works, Community Surface Water Management, GB WQWG, RiverConnect etc.).	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Apply for external funding annually for the implementation of water management activities (including RiverConnect).			
		2.6.2 Advocate agencies and stakeholders to identify and protect significant wetlands and waterways in the City of Greater Shepparton.	Advocate for an increase in the total area of protected wetlands and waterways across the City of Greater Shepparton.	OG	Internal staff time/seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
		2.6.3 Support and advocate for best practice flood and floodplain management to mitigate flood risks.	Produce and promote flooding factsheets for the Greater Shepparton community as required (in partnership with VIC SES).	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Emergency management

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

### 3. Using our resources wisely - Climate change and energy efficiency.

Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Leading by example	3.1 Reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions and the financial costs of Council's energy use.	3.1.1 Develop and implement an energy management plan to reduce Councils greenhouse gas emissions and financial costs of Council's Energy use.	Develop an energy management plan.	ST	Operational expenditure (\$65K)/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Identify greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in the energy management plan.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
			Implement 80% of the energy management plan's actions within the specified timeframes.			
	3.2 Ensure that Council is prepared for the impacts and opportunities presented by climate change.	3.2.1 Develop and implement a climate change adaptation plan (based on the Victorian Government's Adaptation Plan and a review of the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance Adaptation Plan).	Develop a climate change adaptation plan (State Government requirement).	ST	Operational expenditure (\$30K)/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Implement 80% of climate change adaptation plan actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
	3.3 Encourage and attract innovative renewable and alternative energy industries/ businesses development within our municipality.	3.3.1 Include the development of alternative, sustainable sources of energy generation within our municipality in the new Economic Development Action Plan.	Encourage the development of a minimum of two innovative renewable or alternative energy industries or businesses to set up operations in Greater Shepparton.	LT	Internal staff time	Investment Attraction
Provide support and assistance to the Tatura Community Energy Project.			OG			
Enable and empower our community	3.4 Increase the energy efficiency of existing and new residential and commercial buildings across the municipality.	3.4.1 Promote best practice building standards for new buildings.	Produce a variety of factsheets promoting best practice building standards for new buildings.	MT	Operational expenditure (\$5K) / seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Promote the above factsheets to increase the number of new residential buildings that go beyond the minimum star rating requirements.	MT	Internal staff time	Building Services
			Provide support to the community for the development and promotion of a high star rating energy efficient house.	MT	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

3. Using our resources wisely - Climate change and energy efficiency.							
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch	
Enable and empower our community	3.5 Council supports our businesses, industries and residents to live more efficiently and sustainably.	3.5.1 Encourage and support businesses, industry and the general community to reduce energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change.	Identify and establish community greenhouse gas emission benchmarks to report against.	ST	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment	
			Promote solar PV panels to increase community use.	ST			
			Provide support and assistance with the development of Tatura's energy descent plan.	OG	Internal staff time		
			Support a minimum of one energy use reduction event (Earth Hour etc.) per annum.	OG	Operational expenditure (\$6K) / seek funding avenues		
			Provide support for the "Power Down" Community Energy Assessment Project	OG	Internal staff time		Neighbourhood
		3.5.2 Raise the community's awareness of the relevance of climate change, the impacts it will have on our environment and way of life, and the opportunities it will present.	Produce a minimum of four climate change issues and opportunities media releases per annum.	OG	Internal staff time		Sustainability & Environment
			Circulate a minimum of four climate change issues and opportunities articles via social media per annum.				
			Support a minimum of four community groups (Transition Tatura etc.) or local businesses annually to raise community awareness of climate change.		Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues		
Support a minimum of one climate change issues and opportunities related event annually.							
3.6 Partner with Government agencies and regional stakeholders to support the establishment of sustainable agricultural practices.	3.6.1 Assist with the implementation of the "Climate Smart Agricultural Development" research project to equip farmers, farm advisers, agribusiness industries with information about potential impacts of climate change scenarios for our region.	Assist with the development of reports detailing the (spatially explicit) impact of climate change on currently grown crops, new crops and potential new production areas that are viable under future climates.	OG	Internal staff time	Investment Attraction		
		Assist with the development of strategic plans to help agribusinesses and local governments implement effective regional development (agricultural transformation, planning, infrastructure).					

## **Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017**

### 3. Using our resources wisely - Climate change and energy efficiency.

Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
<b>Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders</b>			Circulate communication materials (website, flyers etc.) to inform the community and stakeholders about the findings of the project.	OG	Internal staff time	Investment Attraction
	3.7 Advocate and maximise partnership opportunities to reduce Council and community greenhouse gas emissions and respond to the opportunities and challenges of climate change.	3.7.1 Advocate and collaborate with Government agencies, stakeholders and other Local Governments to maximise opportunities to implement climate change and energy efficiency actions and activities.	Continue to implement the “Watts Working Better” street lighting project and other energy efficiency measures.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Continue Council support for climate change and energy efficiency partnerships and programs (GBGA, GV Community Energy etc.).	OG	Operational expenditure (GBGA - \$20K)/seek funding avenues	
			Apply for external funding annually to implement climate change and energy efficiency actions and activities.	OG	Internal staff time	



## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

4. Using our resources wisely – Resource Efficiency and Waste management						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Leading by example	4.1 Minimise Council's consumption of resources.	4.1.1 Maximise the environmental benefits of Council's purchasing activities by supporting recognised recycled and environmentally preferable products.	Achieve environmental sustainability procurement targets annually (including the application of a 10% price advantage to encourage the purchase of environmentally sustainable products).	OG	Internal staff time/ seek funding avenues	Procurement
			Develop an Eco-buy action plan.	MT		Sustainability & Environment
			Develop annual total green spend targets.			
		4.1.2 Reduce the quantity of waste generated by Council operations going to landfill.	Establish Council generated waste benchmarks	ST	Internal staff time	Waste Services
			Increase the volume of Council generated waste diverted from landfill annually.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
			Continue to improve Council's internal departmental processes, with a focus on process improvement & making better use of electronic systems, & reducing the creation of hard copy paper records	OG	Internal staff time	
	4.2 Provide (as far as practicable) best practice waste management services to the Greater Shepparton community.	4.2.1 Implement the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy (WRRMS) 2013-2023.	Implement 80% of WRRMS actions annually.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Waste Services
			Achieve State Government waste policy targets.			
	4.3 Lead by example to demonstrate that our local environment is valued by Council staff voluntarily cleaning up a specific location.	4.3.1 Greater Shepparton City Council to adopt a section of the Goulburn River as part of the RiverConnect Project for site clean-up and restoration efforts.	Commence adopt a reach activities.	ST	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Conduct two staff rubbish clean-up days a year.	OG		
Planning and regulation powers	4.4 Reduce the incidence of rubbish dumping and the prevalence of litter along roadsides and other areas of public land.	4.4.1 To utilise Council's regulation powers to reduce instances of littering and rubbish dumping.	Develop a compliance and enforcement reporting system.	MT	Internal staff time	Local laws
			Achieve a reduction in the number of Local Law breaches over the life of this Action Plan.	OG	Operational expenditure	

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

4. Using our resources wisely – Resource Efficiency and Waste management							
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch	
Enable and empower our community	4.5 To increase the recovery of resources and minimise the quantity of waste going to landfill.	4.5.1 Explore opportunities to reduce the amount of industrial and commercial waste material going to landfill.	Achieve Victorian Government waste policy targets.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Waste Services	
		4.5.2 Explore opportunities to increase resource recovery through transfer station activities.	Achieve Victorian Government waste policy targets. Increase the volume of municipal generated waste being diverted from landfill annually.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Waste Services	
	4.6 Our community discards waste responsibly by utilising Council’s waste management services and facilities.	4.6.1 Develop and implement an education and awareness campaign to reduce littering and rubbish dumping.	Produce a minimum of four media releases per year to raise awareness about littering and rubbish dumping issues.	Circulate a minimum of four social media communications per year to raise awareness about littering and rubbish dumping issues. Work with the relevant stakeholders to calculate and publicise the costs associated with cleaning up dumped rubbish.	OG	Internal staff time	Waste Services
		4.6.2 Provide support to local businesses, community groups and community members involved in resource recovery and rubbish clean-up activities.	Support a minimum of four community groups (Transition Tatura, Landcare etc.) or local businesses annually to provide rubbish clean-up activities on public land. Support a minimum of one community waste related event annually.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Waste Services	
	Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders	4.7 Maximise collaboration opportunities with Government agencies, stakeholders and other Local Governments.	4.7.1 Advocate, partner and support key stakeholders, government agencies and other Local Governments to maximise opportunities to improve waste management activities.	Continue to support waste management partnerships (Resource GV etc.).	OG	Operational expenditure	Waste Services
				Collaborate with relevant local stakeholders to investigate the implementation of “Blue Economy” solutions to utilise local production outputs.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
				Apply for external funding annually for the implementation of waste management actions and activities.	OG	Internal staff time	

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

5. Sustainable development, planning and transport							
Key direction	Objective	Action	Key indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch	
Leading by example	5.1 Council pursues best practice in sustainable development, planning and transport.	5.1.1 Develop a Peak Oil Risk Assessment Study and Action Plan (Energy Descent Strategy)	Develop a Peak Oil Strategy.	MT	Operational expenditure (\$30K)/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment	
			Implement 80% of Peak Oil Strategy actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues		
		5.1.2 Continue to review the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) to ensure it reflects best practice in environmental sustainability for Council development, planning, and transport activities.	Provide ongoing support to the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) Working Group and Board.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Projects	
	5.2 Reduce the environmental impacts of Council staff travel requirements.	5.2.1 Continue Council’s commitment to environmentally friendly fleet procurement.	90% of vehicles purchased annually by Council meet the CEO Fleet Directive environment specifications.	OG	Internal staff time	Works	
			5.2.2 Encourage staff commute to work or other work related events via car-pooling, public transport, walking or cycling.	Explore the feasibility of developing a “Green Travel plan”	MT	Internal staff time/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
				Increase the number of Council staff commuting to work (or work related activities) via walking, cycling or car-pooling.	OG		
	5.3 Reduce the municipality’s dependence on personal, fossil fuel powered transportation.	5.3.1 Ensure that adequate infrastructure is available to meet community non-motorised and public transport needs.	100% of new developments contain adequate infrastructure to meet community non-motorised and public transport needs (where necessary).	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Statutory planning	
			Implement 75% of the Cycling Strategy’s actions within specified timeframes.			Strategic Planning	
			Complete the redevelopment of the Maude Street bus interchange to encourage a higher level of public transport use by 2016. *Subject to funding availability			Planning	
			Provide funding for bicycle infrastructure projects at levels above the Victorian rural Council average spend			Projects	

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

5. Sustainable development, planning and transport						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Key indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
			annually. *According to the BiXE Victorian Regional Zone Benchmark			
		5.3.2 Develop the Goulburn Valley Freight and Logistics Centre (GV Link).	Continue to market the investment opportunities of GV Link.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Investment Attraction
Planning and regulation powers	5.4 Embed Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) principles into all development, planning, and transport activities within the City of Greater Shepparton.	5.4.1 Amend the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme to include Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) principles in the design phase of the planning permit process. *Dependent on outcomes from the Ministerial Advisory Committee (TRIM: 2013/43166)	Amend the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme to include Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) principles.	MT	Operational expenditure (\$2.5K)	Strategic Planning
Enable and empower our community	5.5 Partner with, support and empower our community to reduce vehicle use and achieve sustainable development and lifestyles across the municipality.	5.5.1 Encourage and support businesses, industry and the general community to increase awareness and commitment to Environmentally Sensitive Design (ESD) principles.	Community, business and industry are all represented at annual community information sessions regarding ESD principles and the long term benefits these principles will provide to the community.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
		5.5.2 Increase the community's use of public transport, cycling, walking or car-pooling as alternate commuting options.	Produce four media releases and social media posts a year to promote public transport, cycling, walking or car-pooling as alternate commuting options.	OG	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
			Support a minimum of one community group (Transition Tatura etc.) annually to raise community awareness of peak oil issues and opportunities.			
5.5.3 Encourage the community to grow fruit and vegetables at home or at community gardens, and purchase locally grown produce.	Increase the number of residents utilising community hub or Kidstown facilities to grow their own fruit and vegetables.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Active Living		

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

5. Sustainable development, planning and transport						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Key indicators /targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
			Sustainability and Environment Team representative to attend 90% of community garden development events.		Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
			Promote and encourage the consumption of home-grown fruit and vegetables.	OG	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders	5.6 Lobby Governments and collaborate with key stakeholders to increase sustainable development outcomes and minimise vehicle use.	5.6.1 Collaborate with agencies, Local Governments and other key stakeholders to achieve sustainable development and reduce vehicle use across the municipality.	Council continues to provide support to relevant sustainable development, planning and transport partnerships (IDM Working Group, cycling stakeholders etc.).	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Strategic Planning
						Arts, Tourism, Events
		Council applies for funding annually for the implementation of sustainable development, planning and transport actions and activities.	Projects			
			Strategic Planning			
		Community Strengthening				
		Investment Attraction				
5.6.2 Advocate and lobby the Federal and State to ensure sustainable development and reduce vehicle use across the municipality.	Continue to lobby the Federal and State Governments to improve passenger and freight rail infrastructure and services for the City of Greater Shepparton (including high speed rail).	OG	Internal staff time	Strategic Planning		
						Investment Attraction



## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

6. Council governance and operations						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators/targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Leading by example	6.1 Provide open and transparent reporting on Council's environmental sustainability performance.	6.1.1 Commence annual reporting on Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements.	Commence quarterly environmental sustainability reporting to Executive.	ST	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
			Produce annual environmental sustainability reports.	OG	Operational expenditure (\$3K)	
			Implement 80% of Environmental Sustainability Strategy actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
			Identify and establish benchmarks to report against.	LT	Internal staff time	
			Complete State of the Environment reports as appropriate (during 4 year review).			
	6.1.2 Improve internal communication about Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements.	Environmental sustainability annual reports circulated internally.	OG	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment	
		Sustainability and Environment staff members attend a minimum of four internal team meetings to discuss environmental sustainability activities and achievements across the organisation.				
		Environmental Sustainability tips/articles/achievements are included in 75% of "From the CEO's Desk", 75% of "Exec Speak" internal communications and twelve "Insite" articles a year.				OG
	6.2 Ensure that Council has the culture, resources, and staff to deliver our environmental sustainability objectives.	6.2.1 Ensure that Council's Environment Branch (Sustainability and Environment, Waste Services) is adequately resourced (staff and annual budget).	Complete the review of the Sustainability and Environment Department by the end of 2014	ST	Internal staff time	Manager, Sustainability & Environment
			Appoint an administration position for the Waste Services and Sustainability and Environment Teams.	ST	Operational expenditure (\$67K)	Director, Sustainable Development
Increase the Sustainability and Environment Team by two FTE officers (1x Sustainability Officer, 1x Environment Officer) to bring staff numbers closer to the average for Victorian City Councils.			MT	Operational expenditure (\$150K)		

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

6. Council governance and operations						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators/targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Leading by example			Employ a Waste and Resource Recovery Education and Sustainability Officer (refer to Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy 2013-2023).	ST	Operational expenditure (\$75K)	
			50% of budgeted Sustainability and Environment Team projects are committed before November 30 each year.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Manager, Sustainability & Environment
			80% of budgeted Sustainability and Environment Team projects commence before November 30 each year.			
			Implement 80% of Environmental Sustainability Strategy actions within specified timeframes.			
		6.2.2 Support the Sustainable Working Group (SDWG) to implement environmental sustainability behaviour and cultural change across the organisation.	The Sustainable Working Group develop and implement an annual action plan for environmental sustainability behaviour and cultural change activities.	OG	Operational expenditure (\$5K)/ seek funding avenues	Manager, Sustainability & Environment
			The SDWG implements 80% of actions in the SDWG action plan annually.			
	The SDWG meeting attendance rate is 80% per year.	Internal staff time				
	6.3 Council staff have the skills, knowledge and capacity to achieve Council's environmental sustainability objectives.	6.3.1 Conduct staff training for key environmental sustainability programs or processes (procurement etc).	Undertake annual environmental sustainability training (including induction, procurement, ECO-buy, weed identification and vehicle hygiene etc) for appropriate staff.	OG	Internal staff time	Learning & Development
			Conduct environmental sustainability training annually for appropriate Council staff (with an 80% attendance rate).			Sustainability & Environment
		6.3.2 Provide training and learning opportunities for the Sustainability & Environment Team.	Training and PD opportunities identified during annual staff PES (Performance Evaluation System) are budgeted and approved.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Manager, Sustainability & Environment
	6.4 Ensure environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities.	6.4.1 Integrate environmental sustainability considerations and impacts into all Council projects and programs.	Integrate the Environmental Sustainability Checklist into the IPM project-planning program.	ST	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
			Integrate environmental sustainability considerations into all infoCouncil reports.	ST		
Increase Council's "green spend" from 2014 to 2017.			OG	Procurement		

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

6. Council governance and operations						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators/targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Planning and regulation powers	6.5 Ensure that Council utilise the most appropriate and effective planning and regulation powers available.	6.5.1 Establish a committee or internal working group to develop clear guidelines on which regulatory services area of Council is in the best position to achieve the best outcomes under the relevant legislation.	Establish a Regulatory Services Working Group. Planning, Building Services, Local Laws, Environmental Health, Sustainability, and Environment would all be involved.	ST	Internal staff time	Citizens Service
			Regulatory Services Guidelines are developed.			
Enable and empower our community	6.6 Our community is well informed and knowledgeable about Councils environmental sustainability activities and achievements.	6.6.1 Promote Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements	Circulate and promote environmental sustainability annual reports are to the community via traditional and social media avenues.	OG	Operational expenditure (Action 6.1.1)	Sustainability & Environment
		6.6.2 Improve communication with the community about Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements.	Install energy and water consumption monitors at Aquamoves and the Welsford Street office.	MT	Operational expenditure/seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Promote environmental sustainability activities and achievements via social media at least twelve times a year.	OG	Internal staff time	
			Circulate monthly media releases via traditional media.			
			Monitor and report on the use of QR (Quick Reference) signage at Council managed sites annually.			
			Increase the bi-annual Auspoll Community Survey performance rating score for Council's environmental sustainability responsibilities in 2014 and 2016.			
		Complete an overhaul of the Sustainability and Environment section of the Council website.	ST	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment	
6.7 Our community is well informed and knowledgeable about environmental sustainability issues in our municipality.	6.7.1 Develop and implement a community engagement and awareness campaign to educate and inform the community about our environment and why it is valued.	Promote environmental sustainability issues and opportunities via social media at least six times a year.	OG	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment	
		Circulate monthly media releases to media outlets.				
		Increase the bi-annual Auspoll Community Survey importance rating score for Council's environmental sustainability responsibilities in 2014 and 2016.				
		Organise a minimum of two, community environmental sustainability related events annually.				Operational expenditure/

## Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017

6. Council governance and operations						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators/targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Enable and empower our community					seek funding avenues	
			Monitor and report on the use of QR (Quick Reference) signage at Council managed sites annually.		Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
	6.8 Promote and/or support the environmental protection and enhancement activities currently occurring in the municipality.	6.8.1 Provide support and publicity for community groups and others in the community undertaking positive environmental activities.	Support a minimum of twelve community (Landcare, community plan etc.) groups annually to undertake positive environmental activities.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Support a minimum of two, community environmental sustainability related events annually.			Waste Services
Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders	6.9 Stakeholders are informed and engaged in the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	6.9.1 Council endorse the formation of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Stakeholder Advisory Committee.	Council endorse the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Stakeholder Advisory Committee Terms of Reference in 2014.	OG	Operational expenditure (\$1K)/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings are held quarterly.		Internal staff time	
			Implement 80% of Environmental Sustainability Strategy stakeholder involvement actions within specified timeframes.			
	6.9.2 Work with stakeholders to improve the quality of environmental data for the City of Greater Shepparton.	Improve State of the Environment data in terms of reliability and specifically to our municipality in the review of the Strategy in 2017	LT	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment	
6.10 Advocate and collaborate with government agencies to improve environmental management outcomes across the municipality.	6.10.1 Continue to enter into partnerships with agencies and stakeholders to develop and implement joint projects.	Council continues support for partnership programs (such as GBGA, Municipal Catchment Coordinator, RiverConnect etc).		OG	Operational expenditure (RiverConnect \$90K, GBGA - Action 3.6.1)	Sustainability & Environment
		Investigate entering into GIS data share agreements with the relevant agencies and departments (DEPI, GVW etc).			Internal staff time	

## **Environmental Sustainability Strategy – Action Plan 2014-2017**

6. Council governance and operations						
Key direction	Objective	Action	Performance indicators/targets	Timeline	Resource implications	Responsibility *Lead branch
Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders			Establish a minimum of two new environmental sustainability partnerships before the Strategy is reviewed in 2017		Internal staff time	
		6.10.2 Actively seek funding opportunities for the implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	Council apply for funding annually for the implementation of Environmental Sustainability Strategy actions.	OG	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment

### **Acronyms**

**CES** – Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (State)

**DEPI** – Department of Environment and primary Industries (State)

**DHS** – Department of Human Services (State)

**DIICSRTE** – Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science Research and Tertiary Education (Federal)

**DPCD** - Department of Planning and Community Development (State)

**DSEWPaC** -De Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (Federal)

**DTPLI** - Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (State)

**EPA** - Environment Protection Authority (State)

**GB CMA** - Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (Regional)

**GBGA** - Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (Regional)

**GB LGBRG** - Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group (Regional)

**GMLN** - Goulburn Murray Landcare Network (Regional)

**G-MW** - Goulburn-Murray Water (Regional)

**GVW** - Goulburn Valley Water (Regional)

**GB WQWG** - Goulburn Broken Water Quality Working Group (Regional)

**IDM Group** (Infrastructure Design Manual) (State)

**LaBIF** - Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum (Regional)

**MAV** - Municipal Association of Victoria (State)

**MDBA** - Murray-Darling Basin Authority (Federal)

**NRWMPP** - Northern Region Water Monitoring Partnership Program (Regional)

**PV** – Parks Victoria (State)

**Resource GV** – Resource Goulburn Valley (Regional)

**SV** - Sustainability Victoria (State)

**TfN** – Trust for Nature (State)

**YYNAC** – Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (Regional)

**VECCI** - Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (State)



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## **APPENDIX I - ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. Background**

Greater Shepparton City Council has received funding from the Victorian Sustainability Accord for the preparation of an Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The development of the Strategy will enable Council to identify and prioritise sustainability and climate change activities with improved integration across Council strategies and plans.

The project supports local capacity building through a strong engagement program both across Council business units and within the local community.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy will address issues that have arisen through the development of Council's Local Environmental Sustainability Priority Statement (LESPPS), and strategic implementation actions identified in the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) namely:

- Prepare an Environmental Strategy incorporating Local Biodiversity Action Plans.
- Prepare an integrated strategy to address all aspects of our environment and to cooperate in the development of regional environmental plans.
- Proactively incorporate sustainability and environmental issues into Council projects and programs.
- Communicate and promote Council's environmental and sustainability commitment and achievements, internally as well as to ratepayers and the wider community.

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy will also:

- Identify an overall vision, broad directions and targets
- Provide a framework for coordinating and regularly reviewing existing environmental sustainability policies, plans and projects
- Assist Council to involve community and cross-Council business units in local sustainability goals and activities
- Identify priority projects and commence action planning.

### **2. Purpose of Committee**

The Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) has resolved to appoint a Stakeholder Reference Committee to inform the development of Council's Sustainability and Environmental Strategy (Strategy).

The Stakeholder Reference Committee (SRC) will have input into the development of the Strategy. The Committee's role is one of providing advice. It is not delegated to make decisions on behalf of the Council.

### **3. Functions of the Committee**

The Stakeholder Reference Committee will have the following functions:

- To advise and assist in the development and review of Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- To advise and assist in determining the Environmental Sustainability Strategy scope.
- Engage and communicate with the wider community according to the guidelines and requirements of the Strategic Community Engagement Plan and Communications Plan developed from the Greater Shepparton Community Engagement Strategy and Community Engagement Toolkit.

Stakeholder Reference Committee members may be called upon to vote on decisions concerning the development of the Strategy. Each committee member will have one (1) vote to give towards the specified options, if and when this occasion occurs. The quorum for the Stakeholder Reference Committee is ten (10) people.

There is no term of office for Stakeholder Reference Committee members. Members have been appointed to the Sustainability and Environment Stakeholder Reference Committee on an ongoing basis commencing 19 April 2012 and continuing until the completion of the development of the Sustainability and Environment Strategy.

The Stakeholder Reference Committee Terms of Reference will be reviewed once the Strategy has been completed. It is possible that the Stakeholder Reference Committee may continue to function as an implementation committee after the Strategy has been adopted by Council. Decisions on this matter will be finalised once the Strategy has been completed.

#### **4. Stakeholder Reference Committee Membership**

The Environmental Sustainability Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee shall comprise of eighteen (18) members appointed by resolution of Council as follows:

- Councillor (Chair), Greater Shepparton City Council Councillor – Cr Kevin Ryan
- Manager, Sustainability and Environment, Greater Shepparton City Council – Greg McKenzie
- Sustainability and Environment Officer, Greater Shepparton City Council – Travis Turner
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority nominee (GB CMA) – Rachael Spokes
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) nominees (3) - (1 x Accord Project Officer, (Chelsea Cherry) + 1 x Biodiversity Officer (Kate Stothers), 1 x Sustainability Services Officer, (Jen Pagon))
- Parks Victoria (PV) nominee - Neville Wells
- Resource GV nominee – Nick Nagle
- Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance nominee (GBGA) – Tracy Taylor
- Goulburn Murray Landcare Network nominee (GMLN) – John Laing
- Goulburn Valley Environment Group nominee (GVEG) – Barb Gray
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation nominee (YYNAC) – Neville Atkinson
- Goulburn-Murray Water nominee (G-MW) – Gabe O'Brien
- Goulburn Valley Water nominee (GVW) – Alan Tyson
- Community representatives (3) – Royce Dickson, Dani Beischer and Sue Hunt

#### **5. Expression of interest and selection process**

The Council will call for written expressions of interest from members of the community to fill the three community representative positions. Expressions of Interest will be assessed against the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrated experience in environment management, within a community setting.
- Knowledge of environmental issues affecting the City of Greater Shepparton.
- The ability to access networks and stakeholder groups within the community.
- Experience facilitating/ leading community-based committees.

Formal qualifications in environmental management, or a related discipline would be well regarded, but not essential.

A selection panel consisting of members of Council's Sustainability and Development Working Group, the Councillor Chair and Deputy Chair will undertake the assessment of submissions, interview applicants (at its discretion) and make recommendations to Council on Committee appointments.

Council will invite the nominated agencies (DSE, DPI, GB CMA, G-MW, GVW, GMLN, YYNAC, GVEG, Resource GV, GBGA and PV) to nominate representatives to the Committee.

## 6. Financial arrangements

Contributions from each participant to the committee are in-kind.

## 7. Meeting arrangements

The Greater Shepparton City Council Sustainability and Environment Branch representative will convene the meetings of the committee. The committee will meet approximately monthly. Meetings will be structured, with agenda's prepared and minutes recorded. A copy of the meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Councils Sustainability and Development Working Group.

All members of the committee will:

- Respect and value the views of every member of the committee
- Encourage every member of the committee to contribute to the committee's deliberations;
- Honestly express opinions
- Remain objective and focused on the role of the committee
- Personally accept responsibility for individual actions and as a committee, accept responsibility for committee's decisions.

