

9.2 MITCHELL SHIRE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES 2018-2019 ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

Author: Elyse Kelly - Environmental Programs Coordinator

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Attachments: 1. Mitchell Shire Environment Strategies 2018/2019 Action Plan

SUMMARY

This report provides the annual report on the implementation of the *Mitchell Shire Environment Strategies 2018-2019 Action Plan*.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council review and note the annual report for the *Mitchell Shire Environment Strategies 2018-2019 Action Plan*.

BACKGROUND

Local Government has an important role to play in environmental management, through its controls over strategic land use planning, infrastructure development, facilitating community involvement and education, local laws and as a public land manager.

Council has adopted various environmental strategies and plans to help guide and facilitate Councils role in environmental management. The *Environment Strategies 2018-2019 Action Plan* combines the actions for the below documents;

- *Mitchell Shire Environment Strategy 2014-2024*;
- *Mitchell Shire Rural Roadside Environmental Management Plan 2016-2026*;
- *Mitchell Shire Sustainable Resource Management Strategy 2011*; and the
- *Monument Hill Management Plan 2014*.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

At the conclusion of the 2018/2019 year, of the 17 actions:

- 15 (88%) actions completed and delivered; and
- 2 (12%) actions in progress and will be delivered

MITCHELL SHIRE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES 2018-2019 ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT (CONT.)

Key highlights of the annual report include:

- The successful delivery of National Tree Day in July 2018. This event surpassed all targets with 1,402 volunteers involved (including 14 local schools). This is an increase of 201 volunteers from the previous year. As part of the event, participants are asked to complete an evaluation, this showed that;
 - 67% of volunteers reported an increase in knowledge about native vegetation,
 - 63% learnt about the importance of planting native vegetation,
 - 67% learnt about their local environment; and
 - 37% reported an intention to implement positive behavior change as a result of being involved.
- The Rural Roadside Conservation Survey was completed. This was a key action from the *Mitchell Shire Rural Roadside Environmental Management Plan 2016-2026* and covered 2,159km of roadside reserves. In addition, Council's GIS layer for roadside conservation values has been updated and 90 new significant roadside signs erected.
- 39 waterway name signs were installed. The project aims to raise the profile of our waterways and encourage a sense of place and ownership within our community.
- The Mitchell Shire Collaborative Weeds Workshop was held with 23 participants from across government agencies and Landcare. The group resolved to form a Mitchell Shire Pest Plant and Animals Taskforce which aims to increase collaboration across the shire for the control of weeds and pest animals.
- 364 kms of roads were treated as part of the roadside weed control program. This was partly funded through a government grant of \$30,799 with \$68,592 of Council funds.
- The Environment team ran and/or supported 41 community environmental events including National Tree Day plantings, a wildflower walk, a school presentation and a guided bird walk. In total there were 1,891 participants at these events.
- 553 pieces of environmental information distributed, including 111 new rural landholder kits.
- The Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre Solar project is on track to be completed in September 2019. The project included the installation of a 99kW Solar Energy System at the Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre (SSAC), which is completed. The actions outstanding include the installation of a dedicated monitoring system to inform future maintenance and report on greenhouse gas emission savings.
- A collaborative project with the Kilmore CFA to remove pine trees from the Monument Hill reserve was commenced with state government funding through the Victorian Governments Biodiversity on Ground Action Grant.

MITCHELL SHIRE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES 2018-2019 ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT (CONT.)

- The amount of environmental advice on statutory and strategic planning matters continues to increase, especially with development our shire is experiencing. Environment officers have been involved in the internal working groups for the Broadford Structure Plan, Rural Land and Activities Review, the Kilmore Creek Precinct Landscape Masterplan and Greening Kilmore - Integrated Water Management.

The review of the Sustainable Resource Management Strategy is a project that has not been delivered on time, however work has commenced to review this document and a project plan is being developed for an inaugural Mitchell Shire Environment Policy and Strategy. This will be a major focus for 2019-2020 and is included in the Mitchell Shire Council Plan 2017-2021 year three (3) action plan.

CONSULTATION

The Mitchell Shire Community Engagement Framework was applied for large projects. Communication plans were developed and implemented for the Monument Hill reserve pine removal project and the Broadford common project.

The Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee continues to be an integral part of the consultation process for environmental projects.

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The cost to Council of the initiatives in the *2018-2019 Environment Strategies Action Plan* include officer time and use of funds within the existing 2018-2019 adopted budget.

Council's Environment Team were also successful in attracting \$38,029 of government funding to assist in the implementation of the Plan.

Many projects could not be possible without the collaboration other Council departments including Communications, Parks, Gardens and Arboriculture Engineering, Strategic and Statutory planning, Capital works, Risk management and Community Development.

Council staff also pooled resources by collaborating with other government agencies and community groups such as Landcare to deliver improved results for our community.

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The implementation of the *2018-2019 Mitchell Shire Environment Strategies Action Plan* assists Council in delivering the *Caring for the Environment* strategic objective of the *Council Plan 2017-2021*; "To be responsible custodians, by managing and enhancing our environment, minimising the impacts of development, waste, natural disasters and climate change".

The Mitchell Environment Strategy supports many of the community priorities identified in the Sustainable Development and Social Wellbeing Directions of the Mitchell 2020 Community Plan, for example to "Conserve and protect valued natural resources, including water, land, flora and fauna".

MITCHELL SHIRE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES 2018-2019 ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT (CONT.)

The Strategies also sits within the context of Council, Local, Regional, State and National legislation and policies.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL)

The implementation of the *Mitchell Shire Environment Strategies 2018-2019 Action Plan* focuses on the protection and enhancement the natural environment, including reducing Council's water and energy use and engagement with the wider community on environmental and sustainability initiatives.

CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

The rights protected in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* were considered in preparing this report and it's determined that the subject matter does not raise any human rights issues.

OFFICER DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

CONCLUSION

The mid-year report for the *2018-2019 Environment Strategies Action Plan* identifies that:

- 88% actions are completed and delivered; and
- 12% actions are in progress and will be delivered.

Council officers will continue to collaborate with Council, the Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee, other Council departments, external stakeholders and the wider Mitchell Shire community to deliver the remaining actions of the plan.

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Attachment

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

16 SEPTEMBER 2019

9.2

MITCHELL SHIRE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES 2018-2019 ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

Attachment No: 1

**Mitchell Shire Environment Strategies
2018/2019 Action Plan**

Mitchell Shire Environment Strategies and Plans 2018/2019 Action Plan

- Year Four (4) Mitchell Shire Environment Strategy 2014-2024
- Year Two (2) Mitchell Shire Rural Roadside Environmental Management Plan 2016-2026
- Year Three (3) Monument Hill Management Plan 2014
- Mitchell Shire Sustainable Resource Management Strategy 2011

Completed and delivered
In progress and will be delivered
Under review, may not be delivered

Theme	Goal	Total actions	Status	Key Outcomes
Biodiversity	Protect, enhance and connect landscapes by increasing the extent and quality of native habitat	7	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Tree Day 2018 - 4,800 plants planted on 21 sites throughout the Shire. • Weed control in 16 Council reserves. • 364km of roads were treated as part of the roadside weed control program. • Mitchell Shire Rural Roadside Environmental Operational Guidelines developed. • The Rural Roadside Conservation Survey completed. 2,159km roadside surveyed, 90 new significant roadside signs erected and Council's roadside conservation GIS layer updated. • Environmental reserves works include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monument Hill Pine removal project with the CFA (grant) • Monument Hill Reserve car park renewal and fencing/bollards installed • Beveridge Recreation Reserve Environmental Interpretive sign • Broadford Common weed control, rubbish removal, revegetation, priority tree works, fencing and signage (grant) • Bushland Park, Seymour - driveway sealing • Colin Officer Flora Reserve interpretive sign renewal and erosion control
Waterways and Wetlands	Improve water quality, riparian condition and in-stream habitat of waterways and wetlands	1	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Creek weed control project in collaboration with South West Goulburn Landcare Inc. • Facilitated 12 working bees with the Kilmore Creek volunteers. Activities included hand weeding, mulching, planting and litter collection. • 39 waterway name signs erected, covering 26 different creek names.
Rural Land Use and Management	Development and land use are respectful of landscape values Implementation of sustainable land management practices on private rural land is encouraged and supported.	2	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Covenant Grant Program successfully implemented with 88% participation of eligible landholder (15 out of 17 landholders) • 111 personalised new rural landholder kits were distributed*

*Action in the Mitchell Shire Council Plan 2017-2021



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● Completed and delivered
● In progress and will be delivered
● Under review, may not be delivered

Theme	Goal	Total actions	Status	Key Outcomes
Urban Land Use Planning and Development	Well planned and sustainable urban growth and development, incorporating open space, access to services, retail/trade and transport	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadford Land Management Group meetings and programs run throughout the year. • Seymour Bushland Park Committee of Management - 2 on site meetings, 2 Committee meetings and a collaborative community event held. • Environmental officer involvement in the project teams for the Broadford Structure Plan, Rural Land and Activities Review, the Kilmore Creek Precinct Landscape Masterplan and Greening Kilmore - Integrated Water Management.
	Rural living qualities including open space, landscape amenity and easy access to the natural environment are maintained	0	0	
Resilient Communities	The connections between people and the natural environment in which they live is increased	2	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Tree Day 2018* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,420 volunteers. This is an increase of 201 volunteers from 2017. • 60 children attended the tree themed activities in our libraries. • Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee held five (5) ordinary meetings, one (1) working group meeting and one (1) group inspection. 115 hours volunteer time* • 553 pieces of environmental information distributed. • 41 Environmental Community events run and/or support including National Tree Day plantings, wildflower walk, Backyard Bird Count library events and guided bird identification walk* • 1,891 participants in community environmental events* • Over 20 collaborative community environmental projects including projects with Landcare, government agencies and planned burns with CFA volunteers.
	Local people respect, value and care for the natural environment directly, and in the way that they choose to live	0	0	
	The knowledge, skills and capacity of the community to understand and practice natural resource management is increased*			
	Partnerships with agencies, industry, landholders and community groups are strengthened to achieve shared environmental goals			

*Action in the Mitchell Shire Council Plan 2017-2021





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-  Completed and delivered
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Theme	Goal	Total actions	Status	Key Outcomes
Sustainability	<p>Mitchell will lead by example by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and water use through internal operations.</p> <p>Council will also continue to engage and support the community to improve energy and water efficiency.</p>	3	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">1</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;">2</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div>0</div> </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre Solar Project 90% delivered - will be fully delivered by September 2019* • Mitchell Shire Council participated in five (5) collaborative projects with the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance including the Local Government Power Purchase Agreement Project* • Project Plan under development for the development of an Environment Policy. This will be a major focus for 2019/20*

