

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

Council Meeting Attachment

ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

15 AUGUST 2016

9.1

**MITCHELL SHIRE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY
DRAFT YEAR THREE (3) ACTION PLAN.**

Attachment No: 1

**Mitchell Shire Environment Strategy Draft Year
Three (3) Action Plan**

DRAFT MITCHELL SHIRE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY YEAR THREE (3) ACTION PLAN.

The implementation of the Mitchell Shire Environment Strategy 2014 - 2024 is supported by the Mitchell Shire Council Plan 2013-2017. Specifically Strategic Objective 4 of the Council Plan “*Environmental Resilience - Responding to changing environmental conditions and protecting our natural environment to ensure long term sustainability*” relates to the Mitchell Shire Environment Strategy.

Strategic Objective	Environment Strategy Action	Outcome	Proposed 2016 / 2017 Action	Responsibility		Target	Timeframe
				Council Department/s	Partnerships		
Biodiversity	<i>Develop and implement a Pest Plant and Animal Strategy</i>	<i>The condition of native vegetation and habitat on Council managed land and priority roadsides is enhanced</i>	Pending the outcome of Council’s investigations in the enforcement of weed control, commence preparation of a Mitchell Shire Pest Plant and Animal Action Plan.	Environment with collaboration from Community Compliance, Parks and Gardens and Communications.	Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee.	A Mitchell Shire pest plant and animal plan is developed and approved by Council.	June 2017
	<i>Develop, implement and regularly review environmental action plans for the Shire.</i>	<i>The condition of native vegetation and habitat on Council managed land and priority roadsides is enhanced</i>	Continue the implementation and review of the Environmental Action Plans for Council environmental reserves.	Environment	Broadford Land Management Group and Seymour Bushland Park Committee of Management.	Implementation of weed control in all twelve (12) Council bushland reserves. Condition assessment of native vegetation in at least two (2) Council bushland reserves for future monitoring purposes.	Ongoing

			Develop the Mitchell Shire Rural Roadside Environmental Operational Guidelines.	Environment with collaboration from Community Compliance, Operations, Emergency Management, Statutory and Strategic planning, Recreation and Open Space, Parks and Gardens and Communications.	Municipal Fire Advisory Group, Council Contractors	Guidelines developed and implemented by Council departments. The condition of vegetation on Council roadsides is improved according to the using the roadside monitoring program.	December 2016
			Implement year 1 of the Rural Roadside Environmental Management Plan.			At least 80% of the actions identified in the Year 1 action plan are achieved.	June 2017
			Implement Council weed control program for Council managed reserves, including roadsides.	Environment and Parks and Gardens.	Groups with Funding and Service Agreements for Council reserves.	Council's weed control program targets at least 10 weed species, 15 reserves and 150km. of roadsides. The condition of vegetation on Council roadsides is improved as measured by Council's roadside monitoring program.	May 2017
			Undertake the Mitchell Shire	Environment.		The condition of vegetation on	May 2017

			<p>Roadside Monitoring Program, building on existing data from 2007 and 2011 to measure changes in biodiversity value over time.</p>			<p>Council roadsides has improved from 2007.</p>	
			<p>Develop a series of twelve (12) fact sheets for council's Bushland Reserves and make available in Library/CSC and online.</p>	<p>Environment with assistance from Communications.</p>	<p>Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee, Monument Hill Working Group, Groups with Funding and Service agreements for Council reserves.</p>	<p>Fact sheets are developed for each of the following reserves;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seymour Bushland Park, • Boulton Flora Reserve, Tallarook, • The Tallarook arboretum • Highcamp Flora Reserve, • Whiteman's Reserve, Broadford • Fleming Drive Flora Reserve, Broadford • Catherine Court Reserve, Broadford • Colin Officer Flora Reserve, Broadford • Green's Pinch and Hamilton's Creek Reserves, Kilmore 	<p>January 2017</p>

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monument Hill, Kilmore • Kilmore Hospital Reservoir, • Beveridge Spring 	
			Implement Year 3 of the Monument Hill Reserve Management Plan.	Environment.	Monument Hill Working Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued operation of the Monument Hill Working Group with at least four (4) meetings held; • Online and hard copy visitor fact sheet developed and distributed ; • Directional signage erected; • Interpretive signage developed; • Map and control weeds; and • Further revegetation of the Anderson Road dam area. 	June 2017
	<i>Undertake , promote and support existing revegetation</i>	<i>Revegetation for improved connectivity across the Shire is increased</i>	Complete year three (3) of the Say G'day trail rehabilitation project.	Environment and Parks and Gardens.	APA Group	Complete the rehabilitation process in conjunction with APA Group.	June 2017

	<i>programs in the Shire</i>					Native vegetation, including grasses are established..	
			Support community participation in National Tree Day and undertake participant evaluation of the event, increased knowledge and skills and any proposed behaviour changes.	Environment.	Community.	Support at least 6 (six) community tree planting events More than 4,000 native plants planted from National Tree Day 2016. This will be an increase from 2015.	July – September 2016
Waterways and Wetlands	<i>Support the delivery of actions out of the Goulburn Broken and North Central Waterways Strategies and Melbourne Water's Healthy Waterways Strategy</i>	<i>Areas of remnant vegetation identified in riparian zones and wetlands within the Shire are protected and enhanced in alignment with CMA and Melbourne Water Waterway Strategies. Inappropriate development and/or land use on or adjacent to waterways and</i>	Develop at least two (2) joint projects with Catchment Management Authorities or Melbourne Water to enhance waterways in the Shire.	Environment, Parks and Gardens	Goulburn Broken and North Central CMA's and Melbourne Water	The creation of two (2) collaborative projects that are ready for implementation. A grant application for on ground works is submitted.	June 2017

		<p>wetlands is avoided</p> <p>Implementation of sustainable land management practices on private land to improve river health is encouraged and supported</p> <p>The quality of stormwater run-off is improved</p>					
Rural Land Use and Management	<p>Promote and support existing land management programs in the Shire.</p> <p>Continue to assist in the promotion and distribution of information on sustainable land management practices</p>	<p>Implementation of sustainable land management practices on private rural land is encouraged and supported</p>	<p>Promote and distribute Property Management Plan Guidelines to assist Mitchell Shire landholders in the development of whole farm plans, property management plans, Land management Plans and Conservation Management Plans.</p>	<p>Environment with support from Statutory Planning.</p>	<p>DELWP, Polytechnic, GoTAFE.</p>	<p>Guidelines available on Council's website.</p> <p>At least three (3) community property management plan events are held.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
			<p>Review Environment pages of Council website to ensure</p>	<p>Environment with support from Communications.</p>	<p>Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>An increase in the number of hits the on Environment pages of Council's</p>	<p>February 2017</p>

			information is up to date, useful and user friendly.			website each quarter.	
			Continue to support and promote Landcare and environment group activities via advertising the groups, their events and sharing materials and resources.	Environment and Community Development.	Local Landcare and Environment Groups.	The <i>Landcare and Environment groups of Mitchell Shire</i> flyer updated and on Council website detailing 28 groups. At least six (6) Facebook posts about Landcare with an increase in community reach each quarter.	Ongoing
			Information about Mitchell Shire's natural environment is disseminated through at least five extension mediums.	Environment in collaboration with Communication.	Trust for Nature.	A quarterly increase in community engagement following environment related communication, measured via <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook likes; • Website Hits • Involvement through Engaging Mitchell; and • Requests for Environmental Information. 	June 2016

			Implement the Conservation Covenant Grant Program.	Environment.	Trust for Nature.	Program successfully implemented, with 100% of eligible landholders participating.	April 2017
	<i>Review existing incentives for sustainable land management e.g. Land Management Rebate</i>		The final report on the 2015/2016 Environmental Grants Program is completed and presented to Council and the Community.	Environment.	Provide an analysis on the implementation of the Mitchell Shire Environmental Grants Program with recommendations for improvements should the program be reintroduced at a later date.	Report presented and received and noted by Council. Copy of report available to the general public and other interface Councils.	September 2016
Urban Land Use Planning and Development	<i>Embed custodianship of natural environmental values within structure planning processes so that growth is managed and natural assets are protected simultaneously</i>	<i>Well planned and sustainable urban growth and development, incorporating open space, access to services, retail/trade and transport Rural living qualities including open space, landscape</i>	Environmental matters form part of the Kilmore, Wandong-Heathcote Junction and Seymour Structure Plan processes.	Strategic Planning and Environment.		Environmental matters are well represented in the Kilmore, Wandong-Heathcote Junction and Seymour Structure Plans.	Ongoing

		<i>amenity and easy access to the natural environment are maintained</i>					
Resilient Communities	<i>Support the identification and promotion of appropriate agricultural enterprises suitable for smaller lots (agribusiness)</i>	<i>Growth in local agricultural food production in urban/rural fringe areas, particularly on productive alluvial and volcanic soils</i>	Implement Year 1 of the Mitchell Shire Economic Development Strategy, especially in relation to rural land management.	Economic Development and Tourism.	Environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental events are included in the Seymour calendar of events. (as confirmed at time of printing); • The business database includes environmental and agricultural services; and • The quarterly business e-newsletter includes at least one (1) article on environmental tips for business. 	Ongoing
	<i>Collaborate with and support initiatives undertaken by community environmental groups and</i>	<i>The connections between people and the natural environment in which they live is increased</i>	The Monument Hill Reserve Working Group, including government agency and community	Environment.	Monument Hill Reserve Working Group.	At least four (4) meetings are convened in 2016/2017.	Ongoing

	<i>Committees of Management</i>		members continues operation.				
			Mitchell Shire Environment Advisory Committee continues operation.	Environment	Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee	At least six (6) meetings are convened in 2016/2017. Delegates' reports are submitted to Council after each meeting detailing issues discussed.	Ongoing
			Oversee the operation of the Funding and Service Agreements (FASAs) for the Broadford Land Management Group and Seymour Bushland Park.	Environment	Broadford Land Management Group and Seymour Bushland Park Committees.	The Broadford Land Management Group and the Seymour Bushland Park Committee of Management are supported, with officers attending at least two (2) meetings with each group.	Ongoing.
			Support Clean Up Australia Day 2017.	Waste Management	Community Groups, Clean Up Australia.	Increased number of volunteers involved from 2016 figures.	March 2017.
	<i>Provide opportunities for young people to become better connected and more active in</i>	<i>Local people respect, value and care for the natural environment directly, and in the</i>	Actively encourage youth to get involved in environmental activities such as	Environment and Youth Services.	Operations.	More than eleven (11) schools, kindergartens or other youth focussed groups involved in	July 2016.

	<i>their local environment</i>	<i>way that they choose to live.</i>	National Tree Day 2016.			National Tree Day to represent an increase of youth focused groups involved in the event. The collection of participation data for National Tree Day 2016 includes age groups to allow monitoring in future years.	
Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	<p><i>The proportion of the community is demonstrating desired behaviours has increased by 20% by 2019</i></p> <p><i>Community awareness of natural assets and threats has increased by 20% by 2019</i></p> <p><i>The number of rural landholders implementing desired pest plant and animal, soil erosion, waterway and wetlands, native flora and</i></p>	<i>Local people respect, value and care for the natural environment directly, and in the way that they choose to live.</i>	<p>Prepare an assessment tool/checklist for land management practices and understanding.</p> <p>The data will be used for monitoring changes to community knowledge and behaviours relating to environmental matters into the future.</p>	Environment with assistance from Community Development and Communications.	Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee, Landcare and Environment Groups.	<p>A tool is developed, distributed and data analysed.</p> <p>Results are published on Council's website and Engaging Mitchell website.</p>	June 2017

	<i>fauna practices is increased by 20% by 2019.</i>						
	<p><i>75% of participants in education programs report an increase in knowledge and skills as a result of their participation in the program</i></p> <p><i>50% of participants in education programs report an intention to change practices/behavior as a result of their participation in the program</i></p>	<i>The knowledge, skills and capacity of the community to understand and practice natural resource management is increased</i>	Develop an evaluation survey to capture data on increased knowledge and skills and intention for change and administer for Council environmental events and programs.	Environment with assistance from Community Development and Communications.	Mitchell Environment Advisory Committee and event participants.	<p>A tool is developed, distributed and data analysed to evaluate Council's environmental events.</p> <p>The data is used to improve Council environmental events.</p>	October 2016.