

REGIONAL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

ACTION PLAN 2020 - 2024

JULY 2020





DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Report to: AlburyCity and Wodonga Council

Prepared by: Renée Woodward, AlburyCity and Wodonga Council

Biosis project no.: 28553

Citation: 2C1C & Biosis 2020. Cities of Albury and Wodonga:
Regional Natural Environment Strategy
- Action Plan 2020-2024, Albury, New South Wales

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Version	Internal reviewer	Date issued
Draft version 01	Matt Looby	09/12/2019
Final version 01 for consultation	AlburyCity and Wodonga Council	January 2020
Final version 02 for adoption	AlburyCity and Wodonga Council	July 2020
Final version	AlburyCity and Wodonga Council	August 2020

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this strategy involved the engagement and support of key regional stakeholders and our community to identify threats, values, regional corridors, and recommended actions. The contribution of all those people is greatly acknowledged.

Biosis staff involved in this project were:

- Lachlan Milne and Lucy Wilson (GIS analysis and mapping)
- Matilda Terry (background research)
- Matt Looby (reporting)

Front cover photo of Squirrel Glider in nest box by Claire Coulson



CONTENTS

1 Development of the RNES	2
2 Vision and Objectives.....	3
2.1 Our vision.....	3
2.2 Themes	3
3 Councils' role	4
4 Alignment of vision, themes and objectives	5
5 Action Plan	7
References	20

1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

The **Regional Natural Environment Strategy** (RNES , Biosis 2020) has been developed by the cities of Albury and Wodonga. Our cities are interdependent, functioning separately but working together. The two councils are collaborating through the Two Cities One Community partnership to achieve a regional approach aiming to avoid duplication, deliver value for money, allow for a greater consistency in dealing with the same issues, create a stronger voice for advocacy and create opportunities for new and broader initiatives (2C1C 2017).

The community does not necessarily see a border between the two cities, crossing the Murray River to share facilities, venues and services. Similarly, in the natural environment, the Murray River is simply a part of a continuous ecosystem, not a boundary between separate systems. As a result, many of the issues and opportunities relating to the environment are common across the river (2C1C 2019a).

The RNES has been developed to address two goals within the environment theme of the *Two Cities One Community Strategic Plan* (2C1C 2017). Underpinned by a comprehensive analysis of biodiversity data and relevant policies (**Technical Background Report**, Biosis 2020a), and advised by community consultation (2C1C 2019b), the strategy identifies the vision, themes and objectives for the Albury-Wodonga region for the next 12 years.

The implementation of the RNES will be through four-year action plans. This **Action Plan** has been developed for the initial four years to 2024. The action plan outlines the specific activities to achieve the intent of the strategy. It lists the actions that could be undertaken, where the priorities are, approximate timelines and a performance indicator.

We acknowledge there are many other stakeholders with an influence on these themes in the Albury-Wodonga region. The RNES intends to enhance and support the work being undertaken by these other stakeholders, whilst providing a framework for councils' environmental program planning and decision-making for the next 12 years.

Progress of this strategy will be reviewed and presented to councils and the community in an annual snapshot report. This will highlight the major achievements and activities against the strategic objectives and the associated action plan.

A full review of this strategy and development of a new strategy will commence in 2032 in alignment with a review of community vision timelines for both councils.

2 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 OUR VISION

Through consultation with our communities, AlburyCity and Wodonga Council have developed a vision for the region that outlines the aim of the RNES.

ALBURY WODONGA HAS A THRIVING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY THAT UNDERPINS THE LIVEABILITY AND PROSPERITY THAT MAKES US NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT.

2.2 THEMES

This vision is underpinned by seven key themes, which are interconnected.

- **Natural places** – Protect and enhance our natural ecosystems and the plants and animals in our natural places. Prioritise planning and management for threatened species and communities.
- **Waterways and wetlands** – Preserve and improve our waterways, wetlands, aquatic habitats and water quality from local creeks down to the Murray River.
- **Connectivity** – Protect and enhance connectivity of our natural places across the region.
- **Addressing threats** – Direct actions to address the impact of overarching threats.
- **Working together** – Maximise council achievements through strong working relationships with others.
- **Liveability** – Our natural places are managed to enhance our well-being and provide connections to nature.
- **Leadership** – Provide leadership and advocacy to protect and promote the cultural, visual and natural values that underpin community pride in our local area.



3 COUNCILS' ROLE

Councils are the interface where large-scale conservation goals can be translated into policy and action at the local scale. Summarised below are the five key approaches that councils will use to implement the RNES.



1. Leadership and advocacy

- Commit to cross-border collaboration and information sharing through the 2C1C partnership.
- Communicate the vision and objectives for the natural environment through the RNES.
- Demonstrate and facilitate leadership through implementing a long-term approach to environmental decision-making, land management and advocacy.
- Deliver and leverage additional resources for priority actions within associated action plans.



2. Planning and policy

- Natural assets and connectivity are appropriately considered in land use planning, particularly at the earliest strategic stage.
- Develop and implement policy to protect and enhance natural assets.
- Continue to provide quality open spaces and recreational areas.
- Comply with legislation and regulate where necessary.



3. Natural resource management

- Lead by example with best practice land management.
- Efficient and effective use of resources in the management of reserves.
- Meeting existing land management commitments.



4. Collaboration and engagement

- Reflect community values.
- Build strong relationships with community and stakeholders for a whole of region approach.
- Working together with private landholders to achieve on the ground environmental outcomes.
- Provide expertise and assistance in a range of voluntary and educational activities.
- The community is informed, engaged and supported to be stewards of the environment.



5. Knowledge

- Management of natural assets is informed by science, best available datasets, local and Aboriginal knowledge.
- Effectiveness of actions is monitored to underpin future refinement of the RNES and associated action planning.
- Identify knowledge gaps, promote and support research activities.

4 ALIGNMENT OF VISION, THEMES AND OBJECTIVES

VISION							
Albury Wodonga has a thriving natural environment and connected community that underpins the liveability and prosperity that makes us nationally significant.							
THEME	ADDRESSING THREATS	CONNECTIVITY	LEADERSHIP	LIVEABILITY	NATURAL PLACES	WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS	WORKING TOGETHER
Objectives <i>What do we want to achieve by 2032.</i>	Direct actions to address the impact of overarching threats.	Protect and enhance connectivity of our natural places across the region.	Provide leadership and advocacy to protect and promote cultural, visual and natural values that underpin community pride in our local area.	Our natural places are managed to enhance our well-being and provide connections to nature.	Protect and enhance our natural ecosystems and the plants and animals in our natural places. Prioritise threatened species and communities.	Preserve and improve our waterways, wetlands, aquatic habitats and water quality from local creeks down to the Murray River.	Maximise achievements through strong working relationships with others.
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognise the key threats to the local environment. 2. Proactively manage threats to reduce their impact. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and enhance existing linkages in our landscape. 2. Strategically create additional linkages across tenures. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lead by example in decision-making, land management and advocacy. 2. Plan and manage our natural assets with an evidence based approach, informed by the best available datasets, local and Aboriginal knowledge. 3. Ensure appropriate resourcing for effective management of council-managed environmental land. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide opportunities for everyday connections with nature and waterways. 2. Increase the environmental amenity of our urban parks and streetscapes. 3. Plan strategically for appropriate recreational use of natural areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be strategic in the retention and protection of native vegetation. 2. Protect and enhance habitat. 3. Maintain and improve vegetation condition. 4. Prioritise planning and management for threatened species, communities and their habitats. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect and restore riparian zones, wetlands and aquatic habitats. 2. Maintain and improve our water resource (quality and quantity). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthen relationships and collaborate across the region. 2. Inform, engage and support the community to care for our environment 3. Foster and celebrate environmental contribution and leadership.





5 ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY KEY

HIGH




1

MEDIUM





2






LOW






3







No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
1	ADDRESSING THREATS	Albury and Wodonga councils	High threat pest plants and animals are managed with priority in council-managed land. Preventing establishment of new pests is of highest priority. Prepare species specific management plans where necessary (for example, where management is highly complex or due to the nature of the species itself).		1	Ongoing	No new infestations on council-managed land. Extent of existing infestations does not increase. Actions of any species specific management plans are implemented.
2			Work co-operatively with regional land managers, private landholders and relevant agencies to integrate timing of pest control efforts across the region.		1	Ongoing	Any pest management plans identify relevant land managers for co-operative management. Actions are implemented in accordance with plans.
3			Pest management and restoration programs will be adaptable in response to the best available information about changing management priorities and practices in response to climate change. ACC to continue investigations into plant species responses to climate change and suitability of species for revegetation works (for example, using genotypes from drier and hotter environments).		1	Ongoing	ACC results from investigations into plant species responses to climate change and suitability of species for revegetation works included in Urban Forest Strategy. Management and restoration plans include consideration of best available information. Staff remain informed of current best practice through training, professional networks and collaborative projects.








No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
4	ADDRESSING THREATS	Albury and Wodonga councils	Proactively monitor compliance with best practice environmental management standards for building and development sites by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring approval conditions are clear and enforceable; Utilising bonds and/or guarantees to ensure construction compliance; Ensuring appropriate resources are available to monitor and address any non-compliance; and, Directing any enforcement activity towards matters that present the greatest risk of harm to the environment. 		1	Ongoing	Permit conditions and key areas of non-compliance reviewed annually and resourcing assessed against non-compliance trends annually.
5			Review key non-compliance issues during development and identify actions or processes to reduce impacts.		1	Ongoing	Key issues reviewed in regular internal staff forums.
6			Ensure all teams involved in works and development approvals have access to information to allow identification of biodiversity values early in the planning or assessment process. Where appropriate, deliver information sessions within councils to raise environmental awareness in decision making and improve internal processes.		2	Ongoing	Necessary information is readily available to all staff. Priorities for process improvement are identified. Biannual environmental awareness training delivered to planning and development assessment staff, or new staff as required.
7			Ensure internal processes exist so that all internal and external landscaping plans or proposals continue to exclude potentially invasive species and include appropriate native species, particularly in identified areas of connectivity.		2	Ongoing	Planning for annual streetscaping works plans gives consideration to connectivity model. No potentially invasive species are included in approved plans or council projects. Planting occurs in accordance with relevant guidelines and species lists.






No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
8	ADDRESSING THREATS	Albury and Wodonga councils	<p>Ensure biodiversity and natural resource management matters are incorporated into climate adaptation planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACC to develop and implement a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. • WCC to ensure implementation, where possible, and any revision or new strategy gives consideration to the RNES analysis, actions and priorities. 		2	Ongoing	Consideration of biodiversity and natural resource management matters is documented in any new or revised climate adaptation project.
9			<p>Continue awareness campaigns and expand educational and interpretation materials in a range of formats throughout the region around topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of large old and hollow bearing trees • Cat and dog management; • Forward plantings, WRENS and Albury environmental lands; • Locally significant species, such as Sloanes Froglet, Squirrel Glider and Brush-tailed Phascogale; • Degradation of habitats (firewood collection, weeds and garden escapes, dumping of rubbish and garden waste); • Responsible recreational behaviour in natural areas; and, • Habitat gardening. 		1	Ongoing	<p>A content library is developed, with community partners as appropriate.</p> <p>Develop sustainable recreation behaviour guideline or code of conduct.</p> <p>Support the delivery and promotion of local environmental education initiatives, such as the Garden Guide, Gardens4Wildlife and Nature Map.</p> <p>WCC WREN Interpretation Strategy implemented and revised as required.</p>
10			Investigate options for actively encouraging responsible pet ownership, such as incentives for voluntary cat containment and demonstration projects for cat runs.		1	Immediate	Findings and recommendations of investigations reported for WCC findings to be considered in the renewal of the Domestic Animal Management Plan in 2021.
11			Investigate regulatory instruments that may be utilised to encourage or enforce responsible pet ownership or feral cat control in and around bushland areas.		2	Medium term	<p>Findings and recommendations of investigations reported.</p> <p>WCC findings to be considered in the renewal of the Domestic Animal Management Plan in 2021.</p>
12			Investigate the use of ecologically sensitive fencing and lighting where new development adjoins bushland areas.		3	Medium term	Review of options and cost benefit analysis (for lighting) complete. Fencing trials established as appropriate.





No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
13	CONNECTIVITY	Albury and Wodonga councils	Develop and implement an urban forest strategy with consideration of the priorities of the RNES.		1	Medium term	Strategy/s developed and adopted.
14			Resources for restoration/revegetation planting works on Council lands (including urban streetscapes, roadsides and parks) are prioritised to enhance the function of existing landscape corridors and fill gaps in connectivity.		1	Medium term	Prepare plan/s to show priority sites, works, species etc.
15			Within identified existing and future landscape corridors, nominate areas of lower visitor traffic in council managed urban reserves and streetscapes to improve habitat complexity under existing trees (such as surrounding sports fields, urban roadsides, playgrounds and within in the river precinct). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support with interpretation regarding improved habitat values. Incorporate opportunities for passive surveillance for public safety. 		2	Ongoing	Demonstration sites established to trial the approach. Habitat creation opportunities recognised in any master planning for urban and sports reserves.
16			Ensure protection of high priority environmental assets and connectivity during any future strategic planning process using best available knowledge.		2	Ongoing	Consideration documented in any adopted strategic plan.
17		Wodonga council	Review the existing use of planning controls to achieve environmental outcomes, giving consideration the RNES analysis and priorities. Investigate the provision of planning controls, such as overlays, in priority areas for connectivity (existing and potential) and known high value locations (such as roadsides).		1	Medium term	Findings and recommendations of review reported for implementation as appropriate.







No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
18	LEADERSHIP	Albury and Wodonga councils	Respond to state and federal government draft policies, strategies, plans and position papers regarding sustainable development and natural resource management, where relevant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate a combined council response should be prepared. 		3	As required	Number of documents for which councils provide input. Councils advocating at all levels of governments for the natural environment.
19			Continue to participate in regional networks and forums and work co-operatively to align strategies, policies and programs.		2	Ongoing	Number of networks and forums attended. Follow-up actions implemented/achieved.
20			Progress against RNES actions reviewed annually and forward action planning amended as necessary.		2	Annual	Annual report against actions complete, including recommended changes to the plan, and made publicly available.
21			Comprehensive review of RNES, action plan and associated strategies, plans and reports during preparation of next four year action plan.		3	Year 4	Review complete and new action plan prepared in response.
22			Ensure councils are appropriately resourced to effectively manage the existing and future council environmental land estate in accordance with the objectives of the RNES.		1	Immediate	Review of existing resources undertaken to inform long term asset management and budgeting processes.
23			Councils will lead by example with best practice environmental management standards for all council projects.		1	Ongoing	Council projects exceed all minimum environmental planning and management standards that would be applied to any private development.

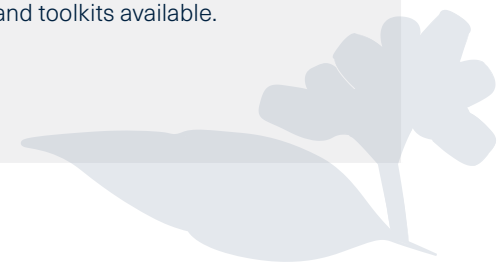









No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
24	LIVEABILITY	Albury and Wodonga councils	<p>Continue to support and/or deliver community education events that encourage connection to nature and improve community understanding of the local environment. Including initiatives such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Habitat open gardens; Wildflowers, invertebrates, fungi, bird and reptile walks; and, Festival of short walks. <p>Ensure these events highlight opportunities for individuals to contribute to community projects or through individual action.</p>		2	Medium term	<p>Community events and campaigns that align with RNES objectives shared and promoted through council channels.</p> <p>Opportunities for environmental events are considered in the coordination of broader event programs, such as physical activity, arts or sustainability programs.</p>
25			Promote opportunities for the community, new residents and visitors to connect with nature by ensuring existing tracks and trails in and around natural places are mapped and that maps are publically accessible. Consider developing self-guided walks with interpretation material.		2	Ongoing	<p>Suitable tracks and trails identified and systematically mapped on appropriate platforms.</p> <p>New trails added as required.</p>
26			Continue to implement off-road connections between residences and bushland (pathways and cycleways).		3	Ongoing	Priority new connections identified.
27			When planning for cycle and pedestrian connections consideration of RNES connectivity objectives will be given with regards to any associated shade or amenity plantings and access to natural places.		3	Ongoing	2C1C Integrated Transport Plan will give consideration to RNES objectives.
28			<p>Support sustainable recreational uses in or around natural places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That are enhanced by a natural setting and promote appreciation of the natural environment; Where impacts on environmental and cultural heritage values are demonstrably avoided and minimised; and, Only where appropriate resources are available to manage sustainable use. 		2	Ongoing	Documentation of principles of avoid and minimise, consideration of objectives of RNES and appropriate resources for ongoing management, in addition to any necessary regulatory requirements, will support any new proposal.





No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
29	NATURAL PLACES	Albury and Wodonga councils	Ensure existing biodiversity data is centralised in council mapping systems to inform planning and decision-making, and that this data is kept up to date.		2	Medium term	Available data is collated and available in council mapping platforms for staff access and sharing with partners.
30			Continue to allocate resources to ensure on-ground works data can be collected in the field and uploaded in databases and mapping systems to inform reporting, planning and management.		1	Immediate	Systems for capturing and maintaining data are established.
31			<p>Create or update reserve management plans for council land, including roadside reserves, where required. Giving consideration to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of rare or threatened species; • Complexity of management; • Best available biodiversity data; • Mapped existing or potential corridor locations; and, • Relevance or effectiveness of previous plans and/or past management; • Consideration of cultural heritage sensitivity and Aboriginal land management practices; and, • The potential role of fire in achieving environmental outcomes and community expectations around fire management. <p>Sites can be prioritised based on RNES technical analysis and level of community interest or active engagement in management of the site.</p>		2	Medium term	<p>High priority sites are identified. Plans are created or updated for highest priority sites within the life of this action plan.</p> <p>WCC existing Roadside Vegetation Management Plan implemented and reviewed as required.</p> <p>Albury Environmental Lands Strategy developed and adopted.</p>
32			Investigate opportunities for ecological and cultural burning to address bushfire management in reserve plans and proposed restoration and revegetation works.		3	Medium term	<p>Consideration included in all high priority reserve plans and in fire management planning.</p> <p>Documented prior to undertaking any suitable restoration programs.</p>
33			<p>Continue to increase nesting hollows in known Squirrel Gliders and Brush-Tailed Phascogale habitats on public land. Ensure nest boxes construction and installation use best practice for thermal regulation in heat wave events. Consider novel hollow creation methods where appropriate.</p> <p>Monitoring and maintenance requirements for new and existing boxes should be documented in relevant reserve management plans.</p>		2	Ongoing	<p>Continue to install nest boxes with reference to latest records and connectivity modelling.</p> <p>Locations continue to be documented spatially.</p> <p>All nest boxes installed in appropriate positions.</p> <p>Nest box design is appropriate and where practical is locally sourced.</p>

No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
34	NATURAL PLACES	Albury and Wodonga councils	<p>WCC open space strategy finalised and implemented with consideration of RNES priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the interface between development and environmental lands provides positive conservation, amenity, access and surveillance outcomes. Ensure new open spaces and their embellishment give consideration to RNES priorities. <p>ACC to consider alignment of practices for a regional standard.</p>		2	Immediate	WCC open space strategy adopted and implemented with consideration of RNES priorities.
35			<p>Ensure offsetting approaches via all offsetting pathways align with the RNES.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise ACC offsetting protocols to reflect best practice revegetation standards in structure and species composition. Prioritise offsetting locations that enhance or extend landscape linkages. 		3	Ongoing	<p>WCC to complete feasibility study of local offset options.</p> <p>ACC offsetting protocols revised.</p>
36			<p>Further encourage the retention of native vegetation including large old trees in the public and private realms, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revising ACC DCP Part 5 to apply to all native vegetation and all trees over 3 metres tall; and, WCC adopt the Tree Management Strategy, to inform management of trees on council land, and consider tree retention on private land in review of planning controls. Implement with consideration of RNES objectives and priorities. 		1	Immediate	<p>ACC DCP Part 5 revised and implemented, review of relevant Engineering Guidelines and Specifications completed and implemented.</p> <p>WCC Tree Management Strategy adopted and implemented and review of planning controls completed.</p>
37		AlburyCity	Ground truth and update mapping of vegetation type and condition, focussing on threatened ecological communities. Include small communities that are not currently mapped such as ephemeral freshwater wetlands.		3	Medium term	Mapping updated.







No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
38	NATURAL PLACES	Albury and Wodonga councils	Continue to collaborate with technical experts to monitor and inform management for key threatened and locally significant species, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Squirrel Glider; Sloane's Froglet; Brush-tailed Phascogale; and, Woodland bird communities 		1	Ongoing	Meetings with technical experts, funding bids.
39			Undertake biodiversity monitoring in priority council reserves to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document reserve condition; Evaluate and improve reserve management; and, Report against strategy objectives. 		2	Annual	Priority reserves (and intended type and extent of monitoring) identified. Initial 'base line' monitoring to occur within the life of this action plan and nominate suitable ongoing monitoring intervals.
40			Ensure councils are appropriately resourced to effectively manage the existing and future council environmental land estate in accordance with the objectives of the RNES.		1	Immediate	Review of existing resources undertaken to inform long-term asset management and budgeting processes.
41	WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS	Wodonga council	Seek expert advice regarding whether Sloane's Froglet occurs in Wodonga LGA to inform management across the region.		3	Medium term	Advice documented.
42		AlburyCity	Ensure implementation of Sloane's Froglet stormwater wetland design guidelines for all developments in the Thurgoona LAMP Area.		1	Ongoing	All new developments in the Thurgoona LAMP implement guidelines.
43		Albury and Wodonga councils	Encourage implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) to protect and improve water quality and provide for biodiversity outcomes using the following approaches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidelines or toolkits to assist in overcoming barriers to uptake Incorporate WSUD into council or public infrastructure projects Seek funding or partnerships for demonstration projects 		2	Medium term	Guidelines and toolkits available.

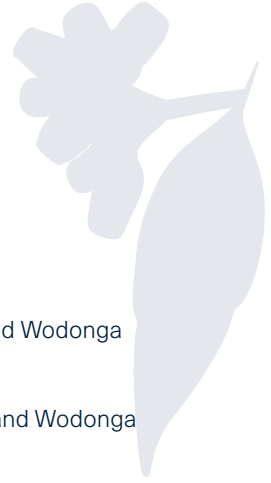


No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
44	WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS	Albury and Wodonga councils	Continue to support local scientific research and community-based action to build local awareness and improve management of at risk Murray River catchment turtle populations.		2	Ongoing	Collaboration opportunities identified. Funding applications for suitable initiatives.
45			Tracks and trails along waterways and wetlands should be supported by interpretive material specific to the value of local water resources, the habitat they provide and their Aboriginal cultural heritage significance. Where relevant, at risk turtles of the Murray River catchment should be used as a flagship species for these initiatives.		3	Ongoing	Relevant stakeholders engaged in developing content to support development of any new trails. Suitable existing trails identified for future funding as appropriate.
46	WORKING TOGETHER	Albury and Wodonga councils	AlburyCity and Wodonga Council continue to collaborate through 2C1C to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve strategic outcomes and consistency of approach across the region; Leverage value through increased partnerships; and, Share resources and knowledge. 		1	Ongoing	Achievement of collaborative projects and/or funding bids. Local policy alignment or consistency of approach for managing land use pressures or addressing threats.
47			Work with regional partners, relevant authorities and technical experts in the ongoing refinement of RNES mapping products and analysis to facilitate improved planning and management of assets.		2	Ongoing	Mapping products are available in council mapping platforms for staff access and sharing with partners.
48			Collaborate with regional partners to identify external funding opportunities to support councils' and community implementation of management activities.		2	Ongoing	Applications for applicable funding.
49			Partner with high profile businesses or individuals in region to implement RNES actions where applicable and showcase corporate leadership in line with RNES objectives.		3	Ongoing	Partnerships established.
50			Investigate successful approaches by other councils to educate, engage and empower the community and build community leadership.		2	Immediate	Relevant case studies identified and shared.

No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
51	WORKING TOGETHER	Albury and Wodonga councils	Increase partnerships with schools (including preschools) with a focus on connecting to nature and improving understanding and skills to protect and enhance natural areas. Such as supporting delivery of nature play or bush kinder programs in council reserves.		3	Medium term	Partnerships established.
52			Liaise with local experts to ensure upload of threatened and locally significant species data to appropriate databases to provide a knowledge base for management.		2	Ongoing	Existing data is uploaded into appropriate databases.
53			<p>Collaborate with local higher education institutions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local research projects to fill knowledge gaps, to better understand local biodiversity or to inform sustainable development; Encourage student participation in local environmental management; Incorporate the local environment into the curriculum of courses (including non-environmental courses); and, Promote leadership in environmental management and sustainable development. 		2	Immediate	Establish partnerships with providers.
54			Actively promote and encourage participation in citizen science programs, including the Backyard Bird Count, Wild Pollinator Count, Climate Watch Trail and Albury Wodonga Nature Map.		2	Ongoing	Number of events and campaigns that align with RNES objectives shared and promoted through council channels.



No.	THEME	COUNCIL ROLE	ACTION	TYPE	PRIORITY	TIMING	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR
55	WORKING TOGETHER	Albury and Wodonga councils	Better integrate biodiversity and sustainability planning initiatives and decision making. Including by incorporating relevant natural environment content to the Sustainable Living Festival and sustainability strategies.		1	Ongoing	Consideration of RNES objectives is documented for relevant sustainability projects. WCC - Sustainability Strategy review gives consideration to RNES objectives.
56			Work with established community environment groups to actively encourage the growth of existing groups and/or the formation of new groups, particularly in areas where new development adjoins bushland or waterways.		2	Ongoing	Formation of new groups.
57			Continue to support community environment groups through provision of financial and in-kind resources to enhance and extend the local resource base to care for the natural environment.		1	Immediate	Develop a framework for ongoing support of groups.
58			Assist community groups in promoting community events and campaigns that align with RNES objectives.		2	Ongoing	Number of community events and campaigns that align with RNES objectives shared and promoted through council channels.
59			Work with volunteer co-ordination services to encourage participation in local environmental management and address any barriers to participation.		3	Medium term	New relationships with external volunteer bodies established. Priority issues and opportunities identified.
60			Traditional owners and local Aboriginal people should have a lead role in presenting and interpreting the local natural environment and Aboriginal cultural heritage values and stories.		2	Ongoing	Collaboration occurs for relevant sites/projects. Traditional Owners and/or local Aboriginal people lead implementation of relevant interpretive projects.



REFERENCES

- 2C1C 2017. Community Strategic Plan 2017-2021, Report prepared by Two Cities One Community for AlburyCity and Wodonga Council.
- 2C1C 2019a. Regional Natural Environment Strategy, Brief prepared by Two Cities One Community for AlburyCity and Wodonga Council.
- 2C1C 2019b. Regional Natural Environment Strategy: Feedback report, Report prepared by Two Cities One Community for AlburyCity and Wodonga Council.
- Biosis 2020. AlburyCity and Wodonga Council, Regional Natural Environment Strategy. Author: R Woodward, Biosis Pty Ltd. Project no. 28553 & 30130.
- Biosis 2020a. *Cities of Albury and Wodonga: Regional Natural Environment Strategy - Technical Background Report*, Prepared for the Cities of Wodonga and Albury. Authors: R Woodward, L Milne, L Wilson, M Looby, M Terry, Biosis Pty Ltd, Albury, New South Wales.

