



Albury  
Conservation  
Company

## Media Release

### **A win-win? Looking after our native wildlife whilst ensuring available housing in burgeoning regional cities.**

The Albury Conservation Company, a registered not-for-profit charity, is launching its Blueprint entitled ***Balancing Urban Growth and Nature*** in Thurgoona on Friday, 20 March 2026. The research and publication of this Blueprint was funded by the Ian Potter Foundation. The Blueprint provides examples and guidelines for integrating nature conservation with urban development in the Albury Wodonga region.

Following in-depth consultation with a diverse range of individuals who have expertise in town planning, urban development, ecology and environmental management, and drawing on examples from elsewhere in Australia, ***Balancing Urban Growth and Nature*** documents lessons on how to effectively plan and manage our threatened native wildlife and their habitats alongside urban growth. The Albury Conservation Company envisions that urban planners, developers and regional communities across Australia may learn from the examples and guidelines provided by the Blueprint.

Professor Digby Race, who compiled the Blueprint, commented that “The Albury Wodonga region is typical of the complexity and dilemmas that regional cities face in managing urban growth and nature conservation. This Blueprint provides insights into the unique positive outcomes that have been achieved, as well as recognising our future challenges.”

Wodonga's Mayor, Cr Michael Gobel, recognised the important role environmental planning plays in conservation efforts.

"Our natural areas are home to many diverse species, and as our city grows, thoughtful planning helps ensure these environments remain safe places for the unique wildlife that share our region," he said.

Albury Mayor, Councillor Kevin Mack said “This cross-border Blueprint supports the work the two councils have achieved through their Two Cities One Community initiative. The case studies and recommendations in the Blueprint highlight the successful use of innovation in natural area management, and the complexity of making good decisions for the future of our communities.”

The launch will take place at Thurgoona Drive, where the Albury City Council installed Squirrel Glider poles which are used frequently by these gliders since installation. The poles ensure the movement

of threatened Squirrel Gliders between wildlife corridors, and were installed at this location following scientific monitoring of the species, which was undertaken by the Albury Conservation Company.

Including small conservation-related projects such as the installation of Squirrel Glider poles, the creation of small wetlands or having native garden parks, in town planning and development can do a lot to ensure that native wildlife can persist in urban environments while also enriching the lives of people in regional cities. These efforts are celebrated world-wide on International Day of Forests on March 21 (<https://www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests/en>).

**Notice:** Professor Digby Race (author) is available for interviews at any time on Friday 20 March 2026 or at other times by appointment.

### **Project Launch**

**When:** Friday 20 March 2026, 11:00 am

**Where:** Thurgoona Drive, Thurgoona (100 metres west of Kerrs Road)

**Who:** Professor Digby Race, Mayor of Albury Councillor Kevin Mack, and James Jenkins Chair Albury Conservation Company will be present for the launch and speaking to this subject.

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