

# **ATTACHMENT TO AGENDA ITEM**

**Ordinary Meeting**

**15 July 2014**

<b>Agenda Item 7.2</b>	<b>Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014-2030) and Action Plan (2014-2017)</b>	
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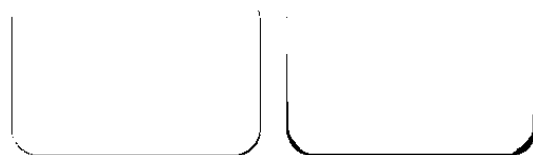


# Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014 - 2030



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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.

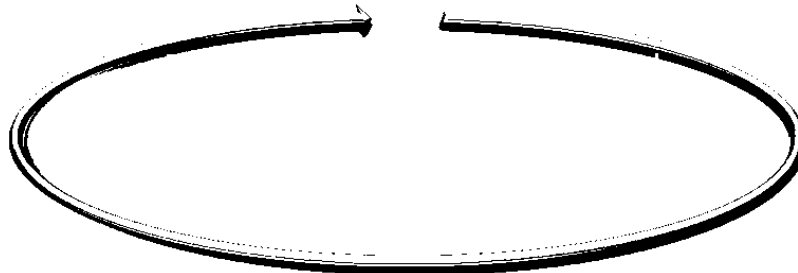
Engagement with our community and Council staff has revealed a re-occurring expectation that Council should be leading by example through proactively seeking solutions to environmental issues and maximise the positive environmental outcomes that result from our activities and decision-making.

The development of this Draft - Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014-2030) and Action Plan (2014-2017) (the Strategy) is a major step towards ensuring that environmental sustainability considerations are incorporated into all Council decision-making processes and operations.

Council is delighted to release this Draft - Strategy for community consultation and encourages submissions from all sectors of the Greater Shepparton community.



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.

### ***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.

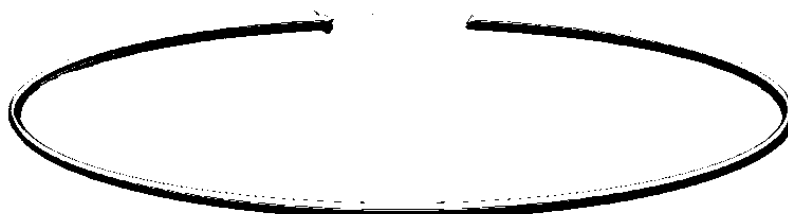
**Section Two** presents the strategic context of the Strategy. The current state of the Greater Shepparton Environment is summarised, key external drivers of change, the concerns and aspirations of our community and Council's role and capacity are discussed.

**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).**



## ***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.

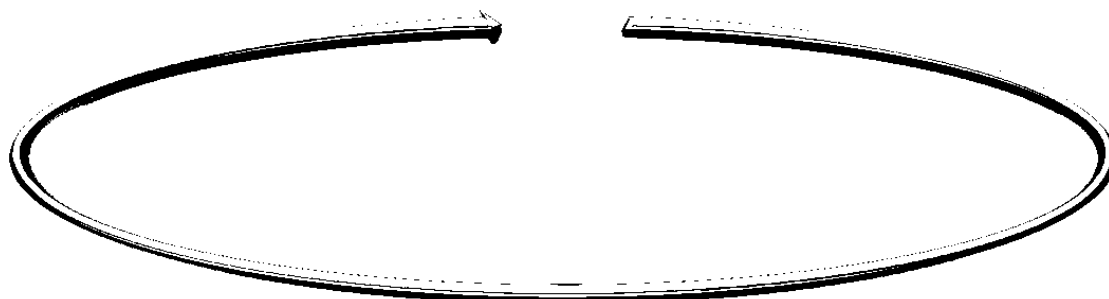
The Environmental Sustainability Strategy Discussion Paper (which was available for community consultation in March and April 2013) is a companion document to this Strategy. This Strategy is heavily focused on providing future direction for Council. The Discussion Paper provides further background information 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.*



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.

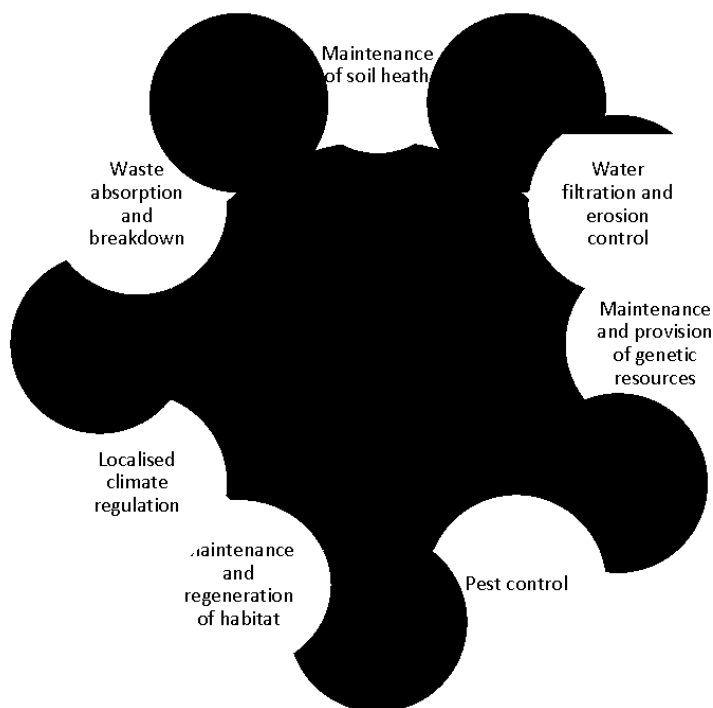


Figure 3: Ecosystem services provided by our natural environment that sustain human life (even by a single paddock tree!).



### 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.

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**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:

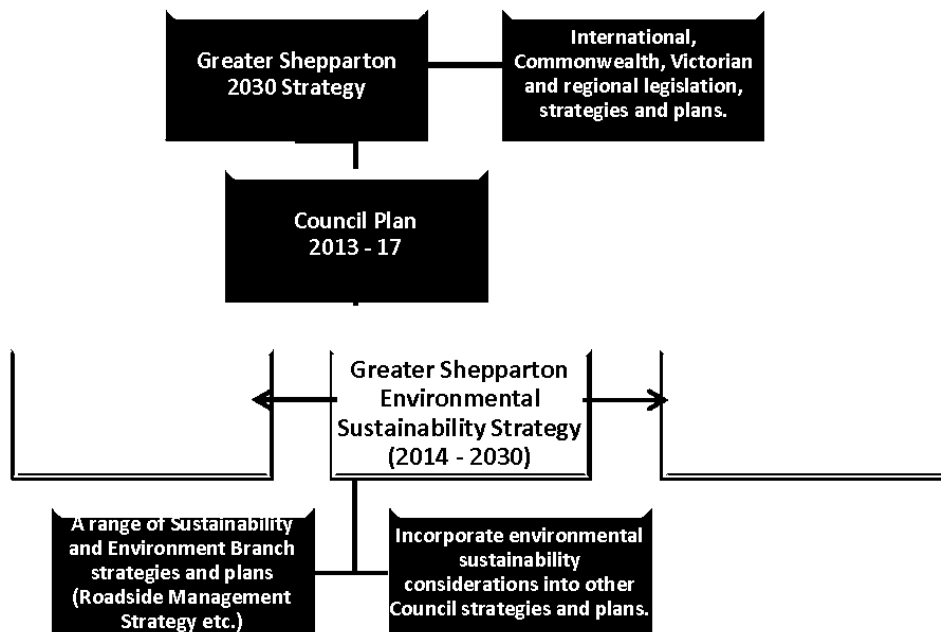
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
- Sustainability Victoria

- 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.

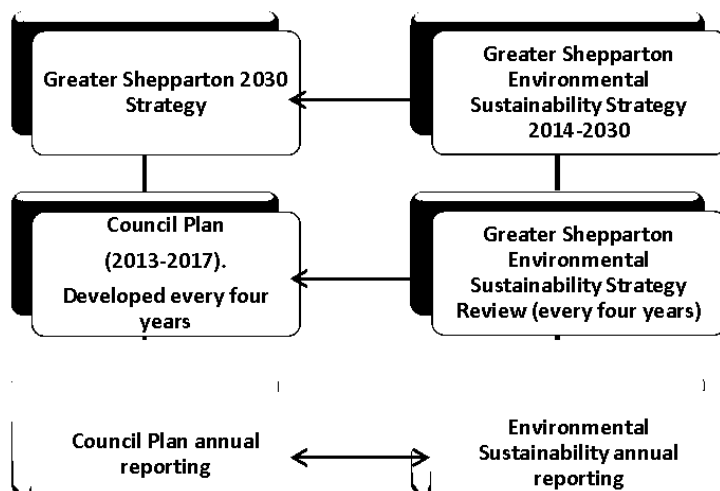
The Action Plan 2014-2017 will be integrated throughout the Council organisation via the InterPlan System. This electronic program inserts the actions of the Strategy into the relevant business, service and work plans. Responsibility for the implementation of each action will sit with the relevant responsible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

<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.

^ State ratings are a comparison against other non-metro Victorian Councils

Using our resources wisely

<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

^ 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 chose 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 alternatives 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.

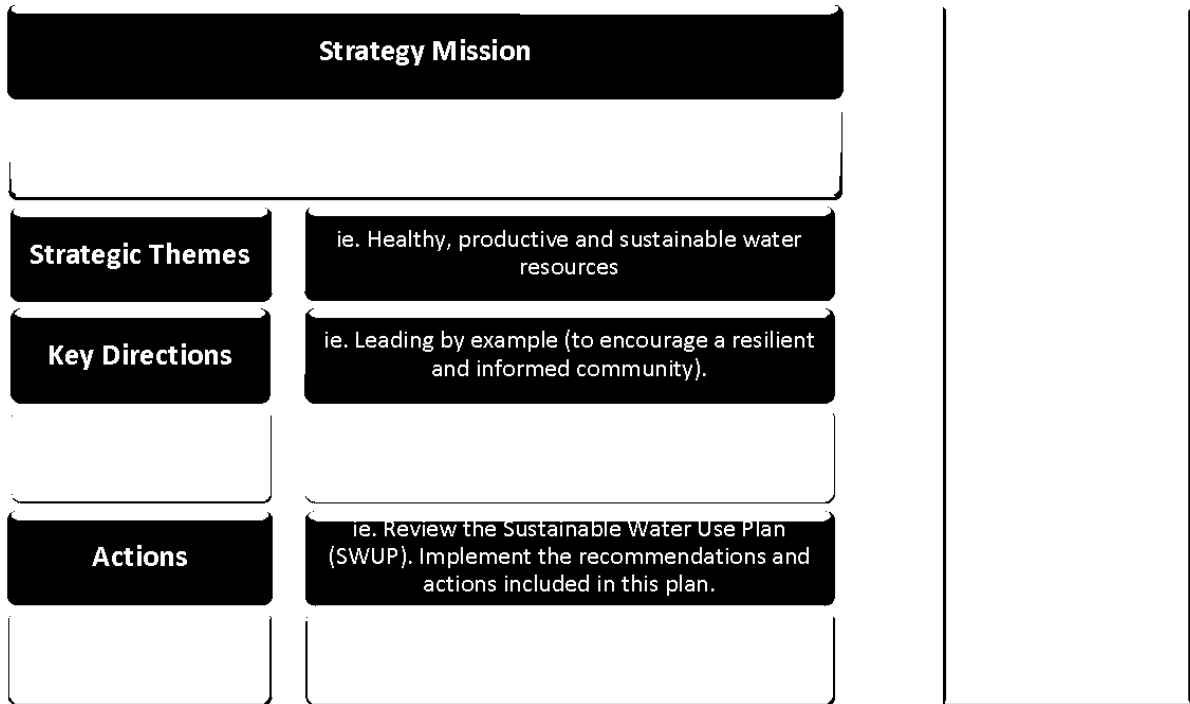


Figure 8: The strategic framework heirarchy for the Environmental Sustainability Strategy

## 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*:

4. Our municipality: *Our healthy, vibrant, and resilient natural environment can sustain the long-term prosperity of our municipality for generations to come.*
5. 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.*
6. 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.**

<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.

<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.

<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
<b>5: Sustainable development, planning and transport</b>	<b>Leading by example</b>	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.
	<b>Planning and regulation powers</b>	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.
	<b>Enable and empower our community</b>	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.
	<b>Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders</b>	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 Council's 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.
	<b>Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders</b>	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.
		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.

1.1 To protect and enhance remnant native vegetation and to maximise the biodiversity values of Council owned and managed land.	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			
		- Roadside Management Strategy	ST	Operational expenditure (\$30K)	
		- Cussen Park Management Plan		Internal staff time	
		Develop new plans/strategies			
		- "Mooroopna Sandhills" Management Plan	MT		
		- Boulevard Bushland Reserve Management Plan	ST	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
		- 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	
		Review current plans/strategies			
1.1.2 Manage Council parks, gardens and other outdoor areas to encourage the community to appreciate our natural land and biodiversity assets.		- Street Tree Master Plan		Internal staff time	*Sustainability & Environment (strategic reporting), Recreation and Parks (implementation)
		- Urban Character Study	OG	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**

		- Explore the feasibility of developing an Urban Pest Control Plan	MT	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Recreation and Parks Works
		- 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	Operational expenditure	Recreation and Parks
	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		
		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
	1.1.4 Implement actions to reduce the incidence of illegal firewood collection.	Signs produced and placed at key locations by 2015 (in conjunction with Parks Victoria).			
		Explore the feasibility of establishing a community woodlot.	MT		
	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.	ST	Internal staff time /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
		Complete the investigation, mapping and statements of significance process for relevant zones/overlays.			
		Implement the above into the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.	MT	Operational expenditure (\$2.5K)	Planning

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

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		
1.2.3 Communicate with existing & prospective landholders to increase understanding of their land & biodiversity obligations & responsibilities.	Explore the feasibility of introducing an over the counter native vegetation offset scheme.	MT	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
	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 Local Laws
	Commence an auditing and reporting program to monitor planning permit condition compliance.			Planning
1.3 To partner with, support and empower our community to increase the biodiversity values of private and public land.	Achieve a reduction in the number of Planning Scheme breaches over the life of this Action Plan.	MT	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Local Laws
	Achieve a reduction in the number of Local Law breaches over the life of this Action Plan.			Sustainability & Environment
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	OG		
	Continue Council’s rate rebate program for Trust for Nature covenanted properties.			
	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**

1.4 Advocate and collaborate with government agencies and key stakeholders to protect and enhance the municipality's biodiversity assets.	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.			
	1.4.1 Foster regional resource sharing and partnerships between other local governments, government agencies and other key stakeholders to deliver key projects.	A minimum of two local organisations and 20 individual community members attend these events annually.	OG	Operational expenditure	Sustainability & Environment
		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
<b>Leading by example</b>	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. Identify new potable and non-potable water reduction targets in the reviewed SWUP.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
	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	
			Review the Greater Shepparton Stormwater Management Plan	ST	Operational expenditure (\$25K)	
	2.3 Ensure that Council is prepared for flood events.	2.2.2 Review the Greater Shepparton Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP). Implement the recommendations and actions included in this plan.	Implement 80% of all SWMP actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Participate in regional water quality programs.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
			Commence annual reporting to the community on water quality monitoring results.	OG	Operational expenditure (\$30K) /seek funding avenues	
			Maintain Council's flood monitoring stations as required.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
	2.3.1 Continue to provide flood and floodplain management plans for the municipality.	Complete reviews of floodplain management plans as required.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment	
		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
		2.4.2 Reduce Local Laws and Planning Scheme breaches and improve the enforcement of planning permit conditions.	Implement the above into the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.	MT	Operational expenditure (\$2.5K)	Planning
			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. Support a minimum of two water conservation themed community events annually.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
		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. Support a minimum of two water quality themed community events annually.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
		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. Increase the community's participation during RiverConnect activities. Investigate opportunities to engage local businesses and organisations to participate in the "adopt a reach" program.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
				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		2.5.4 Develop a community appreciation and awareness campaign to educate and raise our community's understanding of water consumption and quality issues.	Explore the feasibility of expanding the RiverConnect Project to river communities beyond Shepparton/Mooroopna.	MT	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
			Develop a community appreciation and awareness campaign.	ST	Internal staff time	
			Promote water consumption and quality issues and opportunities via social media at least twice a year.	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
			Circulate biannual water consumption and quality media releases to media outlets.	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).			
			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
		2.6.2 Advocate agencies and stakeholders to identify and protect significant wetlands and waterways in the City of Greater Shepparton.	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
		2.6.3 Support and advocate for best practice flood and floodplain management to mitigate flood risks.				

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

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 Council's 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. Implement 80% of the energy management plan's actions within the specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	
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		
		Produce a variety of factsheets promoting best practice building standards for new buildings.	MT	Operational expenditure (\$5K) / seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
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.	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

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		Identify and establish community greenhouse gas emission benchmarks to report against.	ST	Internal staff time	
	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.	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	Sustainability & Environment
		Support a minimum of one energy use reduction event (Earth Hour etc.) per annum.	OG	Operational expenditure (\$6K) / seek funding avenues	
3.5 Council supports our businesses, industries and residents to live more efficiently and sustainably.		Provide support for the "Power Down" Community Energy Assessment Project	OG	Internal staff time	Neighbourhood
		Produce a minimum of four climate change issues and opportunities media releases per annum.			
	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.	Circulate a minimum of four climate change issues and opportunities articles via social media per annum.		Internal staff time	
		Support a minimum of four community groups (Transition Tatura etc.) or local businesses annually to raise community awareness of climate change.	OG		Sustainability & Environment
		Support a minimum of one climate change issues and opportunities related event annually.		Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	
	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.			
3.6 Partner with Government agencies and regional stakeholders to support the establishment of sustainable agricultural practices.		Assist with the development of strategic plans to help agribusinesses and local governments implement effective regional development (agricultural transformation, planning, infrastructure).	OG	Internal staff time	Investment Attraction



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

<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Circulate communication materials (website, flyers etc.) to inform the community and stakeholders about the findings of the project.</p>	OG	Internal staff time	Investment Attraction
		<p>Continue to implement the "Watts Working Better" street lighting project and other energy efficiency measures.</p>	OG	Operational expenditure /seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
		<p>Continue Council support for climate change and energy efficiency partnerships and programs (GBGA, GV Community Energy etc.).</p>	OG	Operational expenditure (GBGA - \$20K)/seek funding avenues	
		<p>Apply for external funding annually to implement climate change and energy efficiency actions and activities.</p>	OG	Internal staff time	

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

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.	ST		Waste Services
4.2 Provide (as far as practicable) best practice waste management services to the Greater Shepparton community.	4.1.2 Reduce the quantity of waste generated by Council operations going to landfill.	Increase the volume of Council generated waste diverted from landfill annually.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Information Management
		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		Waste Services
		Implement 80% of WRRMS actions annually.	OG		Waste Services
4.3 Lead by example to demonstrate that our local environment is valued by Council staff voluntarily cleaning up a specific location.	4.2.1 Implement the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy (WRRMS) 2013-2023.	Achieve State Government waste policy targets.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
		Commence adopt a reach activities.	ST		
4.4 Reduce the incidence of rubbish dumping and the prevalence of litter along roadsides and other areas of public land.	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.	Conduct two staff rubbish clean-up days a year.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Local laws
		Develop a compliance and enforcement reporting system.	MT		
		Achieve a reduction in the number of Local Law breaches over the life of this Action Plan.	OG		

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

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. Produce a minimum of four media releases per year to raise awareness about littering and rubbish dumping issues.	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.	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. Support a minimum of four community groups (Transition Tatura, Landcare etc.) or local businesses annually to provide rubbish clean-up activities on public land.	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 one community waste related event annually. Continue to support waste management partnerships (Resource GV etc.).	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Waste Services
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.	Collaborate with relevant local stakeholders to investigate the implementation of "Blue Economy" solutions to utilise local production outputs.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Waste Services
		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	
<b>Leading by example</b>	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
				Council supports the carpooling incentive program for the next four years.	OG	Internal staff time	
	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).				Statutory planning
			Implement 75% of the Cycling Strategy's actions within specified timeframes.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	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 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
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.	5.3.2 Develop the Goulburn Valley Freight and Logistics Centre (GV Link).	annually. *According to the BiXE Victorian Regional Zone Benchmark Continue to market the investment opportunities of GV Link.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Investment Attraction
		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. Support a minimum of one community group (Transition Tatura etc.) annually to raise community awareness of peak oil issues and opportunities.	OG	Internal staff time Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment

**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
Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders	5.6 Lobby Governments and collaborate with key stakeholders to increase sustainable development outcomes and minimise vehicle use.	5.5.3 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
			Sustainability and Environment Team representative to attend 90% of community garden development events. Promote and encourage the consumption of home-grown fruit and vegetables.	OG	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
			Council continues to provide support to relevant sustainable development, planning and transport partnerships (IDM Working Group, cycling stakeholders etc.).		Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment Strategic Planning Arts, Tourism, Events
		5.6.1 Collaborate with agencies, Local Governments and other key stakeholders to achieve sustainable development and reduce vehicle use across the municipality.	Council applies for funding annually for the implementation of sustainable development, planning and transport actions and activities.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	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. Complete State of the Environment reports as appropriate (during 4 year review). Environmental sustainability annual reports circulated internally.	LT	Internal staff time		
	6.2 Ensure that Council has the culture, resources, and staff to deliver our environmental sustainability objectives.	6.1.2 Improve internal communication about Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements.	Sustainability and Environment staff members attend a minimum of four internal team meetings to discuss environmental sustainability activities and achievements across the organisation.	OG	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
			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	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
		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
<b>Leading by example</b>	6.3 Council staff have the skills, knowledge and capacity to achieve Council's environmental sustainability objectives.	6.2.2 Support the Sustainable Working Group (SDWG) to implement environmental sustainability behaviour and cultural change across the organisation.	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.			
			80% of budgeted Sustainability and Environment Team projects commence before November 30 each year.	OG	Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Manager, Sustainability & Environment
			Implement 80% of Environmental Sustainability Strategy actions within specified timeframes.			
			The Sustainable Working Group develop and implement an annual action plan for environmental sustainability behaviour and cultural change activities.			
			The SDWG implements 80% of actions in the SDWG action plan annually.	OG	Operational expenditure (\$5K)/ seek funding avenues	Manager, Sustainability & Environment
			The SDWG meeting attendance rate is 80% per year.		Internal staff time	
			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.	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		Sustainability & Environment	
		Integrate environmental sustainability considerations into all infoCouncil reports.	ST	Internal staff time		
		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.  Regulatory Services Guidelines are developed.	ST	Internal staff time	Citizens Service
		6.6.1 Promote Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements	Circulate and promote environmental sustainability annual reports to the community via traditional and social media avenues.  Install energy and water consumption monitors at Aquamoves and the Welsford Street office.	OG  MT	Operational expenditure (Action 6.1.1) Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
Enable and empower our community	6.6 Our community is well informed and knowledgeable about Councils environmental sustainability activities and achievements.	6.6.2 Improve communication with the community about Council's environmental sustainability activities and achievements.	Promote environmental sustainability activities and achievements via social media at least twelve times a year. 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.	OG  ST	Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
		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. 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.	OG	Internal staff time  Operational expenditure/	Sustainability & Environment
		6.7 Our community is well informed and knowledgeable about environmental sustainability issues in our municipality.				

### *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	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.	Monitor and report on the use of QR (Quick Reference) signage at Council managed sites annually.		Internal staff time	Sustainability & Environment
			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.		Operational expenditure/ seek funding avenues	Sustainability & Environment
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)

**VECC** - 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.





## **"What you said" – Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy Consultation Report**

"What you said" is a companion document to the Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2014-2030) and Action Plan (2014-2017). This document contains all of the community comments and ideas received by Council during the Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy consultation period (January, February 2014). Community members can track the feedback they provided during this time to see whether their comments or ideas have been included in the development of the Strategy. This was the third phase of consultation during the development of the Strategy.

The first phase of consultation was two surveys released in 2012 to gain an understanding of Council's environmental sustainability management performance and to ensure that the contents of the Strategy reflect the community's environmental priorities and values.

- 143 community members participated in the "community environmental sustainability values and behaviours survey"
- 27 staff members from all five Council directorates contributed via the "Council staff environmental sustainability survey".

The second phase was a discussion paper to provide Council, Council stakeholders and the wider community with background information relevant to the development of the Strategy. Key outcomes from the six-week discussion paper community consultation period (March, April 2013):

- Fifty-two people attended the four community workshops held at Dookie (18/03/13, 16 attendees), Shepparton (20/03/13, 15 attendees), Mooroopna (20/03/13, 12 attendees), and Tatura (10/04/13, 9 attendees).
- Eighty-five community responses received.
- The community responses contained 1,072 specific comments.
- A companion "What you said" report containing specific comments and responses received about the discussion paper was available to the community during the Draft – Strategy consultation period.

Results of the Draft Strategy consultation period (third phase):

- Fifty-five responses received (21 individual community members, 12 agencies, organisations or community groups, 22 Council staff).
- These responses contained 420 specific comments.

The overwhelming majority of feedback and comments received on the Draft Strategy contained 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 positive.

Many positive comments were received regarding the comprehensiveness, structure and honesty of the document and consultation process. Of the 72 general comments received about the Draft Strategy, 69 were positive and three were negative. Two of the negative comments stated that they were pessimistic about Council's environmental actions in the past and one comment stated that the content of the Strategy was repetitive at times.

Consultation comments have been divided into two tables, one contains comments about the Draft Strategy, the other contains comments about the Action Plan. Table contents include the topic or keyword for each comment, who provided/or how the comment was received, and an outline of the potential action or outcome that relates to the comment given.

Each comment is linked to the chapter or section of the Draft Strategy or Action Plan. Some comments and ideas that are linked to the action plan also contain the action/actions that they relate to. This does not imply that Council will definitely undertake the idea or suggestion. These comments and ideas will be considered as an implementation activity to achieve the listed action during the next four years. Each table includes a description of the outcome of that comment including an explanation of why any comment or idea may not have been included in the development of the Strategy.

The community provided many specific ideas for implementation activities to achieve the objectives and actions of the Strategy. The action plan however, does not include detail about the specific implementation activities to perform to achieve each action. The Strategy is a high-level strategic document so the action plan lists the objectives, actions and some key indicators and targets to achieve. Including specific implementation activities in the action plan would have dramatically increased its size and complexity, which we were keen to avoid.

Greater Shepparton City Council and the Environmental Sustainability Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the stakeholders, community organisations and community members who have contributed to the development of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

Table 1: Comments received on the contents of the Draft Strategy

Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comments	Content	I believe that hard work, future orientated thinking and strong ongoing efforts to communicate with our citizens has resulted in an excellent policy draft for the Shepparton districts future.	Community submission 1	Noted
		I like the structure of the policy.		
		Not too bulky		
		The document is attractive		
		Great effort	Community submission 5	Noted
		The report is well researched and developed to be easy to follow , as it provides a lot of background and backup resulting in key directions being broken up into objectives/actions/outcomes , and having short/medium/long term/ongoing goals. It is easy to read but the size and breadth of the document shows the issues that are confronting us.	Community submission 6	Noted
		Congratulations on putting together a draft that reads quite well and uses plain English.	Community submission 7	Noted
		The report is comprehensive and provides council and the communities it serves with a positive direction.		Noted
		Sustainability is a very broad concept and covers many aspects of the Council's activities and responsibilities.	Community submission 10	Noted
		I endorse the general thrust of the document, and congratulate Council and staff on their foresight and efforts to date.	Community submission 13	Noted
		I particularly like the way the Strategy objectives and outcomes begin with the Council leading by example.	Community submission 14	Noted
		It is very comprehensive.		
		Overall I found the document well-presented and easy to read.	Community submission 15	Noted
It covers all details with objectives clearly set out.	Community submission 16	Noted		
The booklet is an excellent publication.				
It is a well researched and comprehensive document.	Community submission 17	Noted		
Good document - easy to follow	Council staff	Noted		

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
<b>General comments</b>	Content	Some repetition throughout which seems to make the flow of the document a little difficult to follow	Council staff 1	Amended
		Very comprehensive	Council staff 2	Noted
		Photo on the cover - Reedy swamp was taken by Serena Hunt - photo8??	Council staff 3	Noted
		The Cussen Park Advisory Committee is generally supportive of the draft strategy's contents	Cussen Park Advisory Committee	Noted
		The Cussen Park Advisory Committee is strongly supportive of a unifying environmental framework and the vision proposed in the draft strategy.		
		I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Council for developing such a comprehensive and well written document.	GBGA	Noted
		The Strategy reflects the wide range of environmental issues in the Shepparton region and commits to future action.	GBGA	Noted
		Content is realistic	GB LGBRG	Noted
		Most issues/aspects of the DESS are well covered.	GB LGBRG	Noted
		All relevant points have been included in the document.	GVW	Noted
		Overall it is a well presented and logical document.	GVW	Noted
		looks great, well done	Staff 16	Noted
		Amazing document!	Staff 2	Noted
		I like the way its easy to read.	Trust for Nature	Noted
		I think overall it is a great plan, covers all areas.		
		The Strategy is realistic not overly ambitious wanting to change the world in 3 years. It has great goals and is ambitious in regards to improving biodiversity and making change.		
		I've read many Local government and other strategies and they have wanted to solve 200 years of clearing in 3 years.		
		The strategy looks great.		
		Overall, the Draft – Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030 addresses key Sustainability principles	University of Melbourne	Noted
		The Draft – Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030 is a comprehensive document and clearly includes key issues for Sustainability.		
Quite impressed on initial read with the content and the layout and the Action tables	VicRoads	Noted		
Have browsed through the draft COGS ESS and cannot really find any glaring omissions from a personal or VicRoads view.				

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comments	Council adoption	The draft report is seen as an important starting point and it should be adopted.	Community submission 10	Noted
		I look forward to the completion of this process and the endorsement of COGS Environmental Sustainability Strategy by our Councillors.	Community submission 13	Noted
		Thank you for the opportunity to make a comment and I wish you all the best in finalising the GS ESS 2014-2030	Community submission 15	Noted
		I urge COGS to adopt the draft policy with minimal change.	Community submission 2	Noted
		GVEG wishes Councillors and management well in the final deliberations of this important Environmental Strategy.	GVEG	Noted
	Definitions	Definition of sustainability required up front	Community submission 9	The definition of environmental sustainability management is provided on the bottom of page 3. Sustainability & sustainable development definition on page 4.
	General	My main concerns were expressed in my comments on the discussion paper.	Community submission 10	Noted
		Congratulations to all involved and I sincerely hope that we can all work together to create change otherwise our Grandchildren, may ask the question--Why oh Why/	Community submission 11	Noted
		I would like to commend you and your team on the Draft document - the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030.	Community submission 14	Noted
		Well done to GSCC	Community submission 16	Noted
		As a resident, farmer, and someone who cares about the future of this region, thank-you for undertaking this Strategy.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Greater Shepparton City Council on the production of the draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy.		
		It is clearly is of great importance to the Sustainability and Environment Department.		
Many great ideas and actions are proposed, which I think is a direct result of not enough resources having been spent on our environment in the past.				
Firstly congratulations to all council staff involved in the development of this document.	Community submission 4	Noted		

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comments	General	Please pass on my congratulations to Council, and all the officers involved in the preparation of the draft report for the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030. Well done!	Community submission 7	Noted
		You and the team are to be congratulated for the overall direction of the plan, the value it puts on our natural assets, and recognition of the reality of human induced climate change.	Community submission 8	Noted
		Great Document	Council staff 1	Noted
		On behalf of the Cussen Park Advisory Committee I congratulate you and the GSCC for developing this draft strategy and look forward to its finalisation.	Cussen Park Advisory Committee	Noted
		Congratulation on all of your hard work to date. We look forward to reading the final version	DEPI	Noted
		The Goulburn Broken CMA commends Greater Shepparton City Council for their commitment to develop an Environmental Sustainability Strategy that will "improve Council's environmental sustainability performance by imbedding environmental sustainability considerations into Council's decision-making processes and operational activities".	GB CMA	Noted
		The Goulburn Broken CMA would like to acknowledge the effort that Council has put into the development of the Draft Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2014-2030.		
		Goulburn Murray Landcare congratulate the city of Greater Shepparton for developing this strategy.	GMLN	Noted
		Great Document	Staff 11	Noted
		Good document overall	Staff 6	Noted
Council should be congratulated in bringing these issues into the decision-making process of the work undertaken for the community.	University of Melbourne	Noted		
There are a number of similarities between the University of Melbourne Sustainability Strategy and the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy, in particular the importance of engagement with the local communities and communication pathways. Our sustainability activities are informed by an Environmental Policy and Environmental Sustainability Strategic Plan. The plan identifies the objectives and actions required to achieve our 2011 – 2015 sustainability targets and can be found at:				

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
General comments	General Implementation	<a href="http://sustainablecampus.unimelb.edu.au/our_commitment/2011-2015_plan.html">http://sustainablecampus.unimelb.edu.au/our_commitment/2011-2015_plan.html</a>		
		Great job.	VicRoads	Noted
		I am cynical in regards to Councils environmental plan and efforts when seats along the boulevard were recently installed facing the road instead of the river!	Anonymous 2	This will be discussed with the appropriate Council departments.
		I am cynical in regards to Councils environmental plan and efforts when the Benalla Rd redevelopment missed opportunities to improve bike infrastructure (lanes?). Energy intensive to get out to the shops there?		
		Best Wishes for the future of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy. I am looking forward to the successful achievements of the aspirational environmental outcomes.	Community submission 12	Noted
		Well done! I hope the proposed outcomes will become the reality.	Community submission 14	Noted
		It's the right way to go and I'm looking forward to seeing a positive future in Shepparton as a result of the adoption and implementation of this strategy.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Good luck with implementation of the Strategy.	Community submission 4	Noted
		It will remain to be seen how the current Federal Governments' decisions ,to wind back and neuter any environmental gains fought for over a number of decades , will impact on the endeavours of Local Councils to adapt to change and try to maintain/sustain the Environment at a reasonable level. We can only hope that the strength of feeling is that we can work on a local level to do as much as we can.	Community submission 6	Noted
		This report shows a real commitment for taking responsibility in a difficult policy area.	GMLN	Noted
		Goulburn Murray Landcare welcome the implementation of the strategy.	VicRoads	Noted
		Good luck with it all.	GB CMA	Noted
		As a signatory to our recently developed GB Regional catchment Strategy 2013-2019, the City of Greater Shepparton acknowledged a willingness to work in partnership with other stakeholders to deliver the RCS outcomes.		
		The Goulburn Broken CMA is willing to work with Greater Shepparton City Council on many of the actions identified within your Strategy. (See further comments below under Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy Action Plan 2014-2017 section).	GB CMA	Noted
We also recognise that there are many synergies between our Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 and the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability	GB CMA	Noted		

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		Strategy 2014-2030,that will allow both organisations to work in partnership to achieve the outcomes of both Strategies.		
<b>General comments</b>	Partnerships	We hope that you find our comments to be constructive and to reiterate that if we can provide any additional information to help Greater Shepparton City Council to finalise your Strategy, we are more than happy to provide you with this.	GB CMA	Noted
	Reporting	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 <u>and reported against annually.</u>	Community submission 9	Amended
<b>1. Introduction and purpose</b>	Mission and visions	Suggest that the Mission and Vision statements (pg.21) are included upfront in this section before the list of how implementation of this strategy will improve Councils environmental performance, to help set the scene for the Draft early on in the Strategy.	GB CMA	Amended
	Wording	Add mitigation and adaptation to sentence Assist Council to involve the community and cross-Council business units in local, regional and state sustainability goals and activities. Increase the capacity and understanding of environmental sustainability issues across Council and the community.	Community submission 9	Amended
<b>2. Greater Shepparton Environment</b>	Education & awareness	I like the attempt to educate the public see "ecosystem services" which gives the "why" of our need to protect natural resources.	Community submission 1	Noted
	Environmental assets	The first part to be made is to recognise that the Dookie Hills and their environs are unique compared to the rest of the Goulburn Valley. Dookie - The soil types are different and the climate is to some extent at variance. There is a low frost prevalence excellent, almost too good natural drainage, rainfall and temperatures slightly different to the rest of the GV. Agricultural practices are also somewhat different to the rest of the region. Many of the plant species found here are unique to the district.	Community submission 3	Noted
		Assets - Regional Park and riparian zone of all rivers and creeks Dookie Bushland Reserve, Loch Garry, Gemmill's Swamp, Reedy Swamp and Victoria Park Lake. Cussen Park is bigger than Victoria Park Lake. Don't forget the thousands of street trees that Council own and road reserves.	Community submission 9	Noted
		P.5 - para 3 – "Lower Goulburn NP" (starting at Reedy Swamp). Reedy Swamp is part of LGNP	Staff 3	Noted
	General	We believe the Draft Strategy is an important first step in addressing past mistakes in relation to health of our environment and outlining future challenges that must be faced	GVEG	Noted

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		if we are to, enhance our natural environment, be open to change and best position our region for the future .		
<b>2. Greater Shepparton Environment</b>	Indigenous/ cultural values	Should the Greater Shepparton Environment (2) also have a paragraph or comment on Traditional Owners and importance of the region to the Indigenous population. Also do cultural values get a mention here? Yes, they are linked to environmental values but they are more than that?	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Noted
	Our region	Our region as with many are in the midst of great economic and environmental changes, which will impact not only on the wider community but also to the future well being of the Council and its' ability to provide services and remain viable.  The draft document currently out for community consultation highlights the complexity of issues to be addressed if our region is to sustain farm production and community resilience into the future.	Community submission 11  GMLN	Noted  Noted
	Priority areas for protection and enhancement	The DESS could identify some priority areas ie Dookie Biolinks area, if the catchment wide offset project gets up where in the municipality would Shepparton target?	GB LGBRG	Noted
	Regional Catchment Strategy	Include a brief outline with Council relationship with catchment priorities in municipality – check the regional catchment strategy.	GB LGBRG	Noted
	Wording	Our natural environment has <u>in recent times</u> provided our region with clean air, .....	Community submission 9	Noted
		I would take the word 'granite' from page 5 and replace with Cambrian aged volcanic rocks.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended
		P.5 – 2.para1 "streams" or waterways?	Staff 3	Amended
<b>3. Principles</b>	Decision making	GVEG supports ensuring environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities of Council. This is an essential aspect in all business management, but more critical than ever for local government and sustainable long term planning.	GVEG	Noted
	General	I like its focus on principles backed up by the ongoing actions seems to be well thought out.  The strategy contains a number of key and important words such as open, transparent,	Community submission 1 Community	Noted Noted

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment	
		regular and honest engagement and they are important because the Council wishes to lead by example.	submission 11		
3. Principles	General	Time for the Council to lead and develop a multi-faceted one-stop economic "can do" business centre to wrap everything up in the one package, incorporating our economic and environmental aspirations.	Community submission 11	Noted	
		This strategy will help in getting sustainable development principles into council processes and strategic thinking.	Community submission 4	Noted	
		Council must embed environmental consideration in all elements and activities	Community submission 9	Included in the purpose, principles, commitment and action plan chapters.	
			GML welcomes this strategy's efforts in getting sustainable development principles into councils strategic thinking and development. This is an area that still needs much work if the notion of sustainable resource use across all sectors is to be entrenched.	GMLN	Noted
	Reporting	I would like to see somewhere in the Strategy that Council policy is to report on the triple bottom line principles. Many issues can be reported on economics only and social and environmental issues barely rate, often at a greater future cost. This comment particularly applies to climate change.	Community submission 15	Council's annual report reports on all triple bottom line principles.	
	Spelling	P6 – achievements spelt wrong.	Staff 3	Amended	
	Sustainability	Sustainability is a very broad concept and covers many aspects of the Council's activities and responsibilities. Council will achieve financial savings from the implementation of many environmental sustainability <u>by definition if it is sustainable it will achieve saving actions.</u>	Community submission 10 Community submission 9	Noted Noted	
4. Strategy development process	Consultation	I believe that hard work, future orientated thinking and strong ongoing efforts to communicate with our citizens has resulted in an excellent policy draft for the Shepparton districts future.	Community submission 1	Noted	
		The process has had a strong emphasis on community input		Noted	
		From the outset the Greater Shepparton City Council, Stakeholder Reference Committee members and staff must be congratulated for their foresight and professional manner in which this document has been prepared and presented.	Community submission 11	Noted	
		Thank you for genuinely consulting with the Greater Shepparton community and stakeholders in developing the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	Community submission 12	Noted	

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment	
4. Strategy development process	Consultation	Thank you for preparing a "What you said" report on the community feedback and making it available for community to access. It shows that the staff of the Sustainability and Environment team genuinely takes all the views of the community and stakeholders seriously, and that the Council sincerely wants to work collaboratively with the community and stakeholders.	Community submission 12	Noted	
		It has had great consultation.	Community submission 17	Noted	
		Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy.	Community submission 4	Noted	
		Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the greater Shepparton sustainability strategy.	Community submission 4	Noted	
		It is heartening that this process has been so thoroughly executed by a team of dedicated people, with lots of opportunity for input and discussion by the Community.	Community submission 6	Noted	
		We appreciate that the GB CMA was able to participate in the development of the Draft Strategy through the involvement of our representative on the Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee. Through this opportunity we were able to provide advice, guidance and input into the development of the draft Strategy and we look forward to continuing our good working relationship with Council to support the implementation of the ESS.	GB CMA	Noted	
		We would especially like to commend you on the effort that has put into community consultation throughout the various stages of developing this strategy, and agree that this engagement has been a vital component of the Strategy's development and will be a key factor in the Strategy's long term success.	GB CMA	Noted	
		GVEG congratulates Council and staff on their foresight and efforts to date in the preparation and consultation involved in the process to this point of the Draft Sustainable Environment Strategy.	GVEG	Noted	
		Development process	As part of the planning committee, I am very pleased with all aspects of the progress to date.	Community submission 1	Noted
			All credit to the staff involved, and Council for supporting the process.	Community submission 17	Noted
Special mention must go to Travis Turner who has been very visible in this process and has worked in a professional and extremely skilled way. He is part of what must be a	Community submission 6		Noted		

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		great team.		
4. Strategy development process	Development process	Suggest that the various steps under each Major step of the development process are shaded in a lighter shade of the same colour (As per the same figure in the Discussion Paper). The use of different colours for the supporting processes is confusing.	GBCMA	Amended
	Steering Committee	No 4...(Strategy development process)..could YYNAC be included in the mention of key stakeholder groups.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended
5. Policy Context	Legislation	Section 2 – strategic context – maybe relevant to put in here cultural legislation (Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006/ Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007) as it does influence environmental actions...and as a result YYNAC should be listed in the key agencies that will assist Council to comply with relevant legislation.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended Strategy to include YYNAC in list. Added Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 to Table 4 in the discussion paper.
6. Lifespan, reviewing reporting	Council Plan alignment	On page 9, second paragraph the point is made about reviewing the strategy to ensure relevance to and alignment with each new council plan. And further on about alignment with council plan objectives. The wording appears to be a "get out of thinking about it" free card for other plan/strategy developers. I think this is the wrong way around and all subsequent plans, strategies and documents should be aligned with this strategy. This would have the effect of ensuring that all future things have some sustainability built into them from the start. The word sustainability is an overused and abused term which probably turns some councillors off but all council activities need to be mindful of resource use, regardless of the resource.	Community submission 4	Amended
		It is noted on page 9 of the draft strategy that a review will occur regularly to ensure relevance and alignment with each new council plan. All new plans should have sustainability principles at their core, regardless of the issue being dealt with.	GMLN	Amended
	General	The action plan will be updated every four years as part of the Strategy review process. As part of this four year review we note the phrase "to ensure relevance and alignment with each new Council Plan". This could be seen as a weakness in the Sustainable Environmental Strategy, a risk that protection and enhancement of the environment could be compromised.	GVEG	Amended
	General	I like its focus on principles backed up by the ongoing actions and regular reviews seems to be well thought out.	Community submission 1	Noted

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
6. Lifespan, reviewing reporting	Interplan/IPM	Another view of policy implementation is that it simply goes into the mix of <u>expectations</u> that very rarely get active results. It is good to hear that this policy's focus on actions will be part of Councils requirement of section managers' roles.  6 – reporting mechanisms – strengthen paragraph 4 - What does Interplan mean ? Active/accountability.	Community submission 1	Noted
	Reporting	Community should be informed annually of the improvements or otherwise of these bench marks. It may not be easy to arrive at the appropriate benchmarks but if you do not have some sort of yearly measurement reporting, the community will always say you are not doing enough.  While many environmental issues are outside the control of Council, I cannot see how the ratepayers can judge the performance of the Council from this Strategy. I am particularly concerned about the reporting of the areas in which Council has ownership.	Staff 11  Community submission 15	Amended  Annual reporting is an action in the strategy.
	Strategic links	I like its links to the broad Council strategy.	Community submission 1	Noted
	Wording	Please note that these <u>environmental outcomes</u> are a <u>measure of Strategy objective success</u> as opposed to the <u>key indicators/targets</u> that are listed in the action plan, which will <u>measure Strategy action plan success</u> . - confusing?	Council staff 1	Amended
	Benchmarking	If we are to move forward it is important to have clear and precise data, with accepted base lines to work from.  From a community perspective I think how environmental outcomes are agreed and accountabilities are perceived can only be judged by bench marking of KPI's. Many environmental issues take some time to show a return on investment, but if you don't record where you started from you will never be able to claim the benefits. Community should be informed annually of the improvements or otherwise of these bench marks. It may not be easy to arrive at the appropriate benchmarks but if you don't have some sort of yearly measurement reporting, the community will always say you are not doing enough.	Community submission 11  Community submission 15	Noted  Noted
7. State of our Environment	Data	Against the "Environmental flows" environmental characteristic the comment states;"205,015ML has been delivered through GB CMA delivery via Victorian Water and Commonwealth Environment Water Holder". This is the amount delivered in 2012-2013 only.	GB CMA	Amended

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
7. State of our Environment	Data	The comment against many of the environmental characteristics in this section states "Data from 2012/13". We would suggest including what the source of this data was, i.e. "Data from 2012/13 Council Annual Report" so that when the state of the environment is reviewed as part of the 4 year strategy review, you can be confident that you are benchmarking against the same data.	GB CMA	Amended
	Decision making	The strategy makes the point that the city of Greater Shepparton has been cleared more than most parts of Victoria, resulting in a very fragmented, stressed environment. This makes planning decisions that much harder, especially in uncertain economic times, and this strategy will be a valuable guide in this regard.	GMLN	Noted
8. External Drivers	Climate change	Council must respond to the practical challenges of climate change	Community submission 10	Noted
		Both the Australian Federal Government and Victorian State government 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.	Community submission 11	Noted
		That COGS acknowledges that Human induced Climate Change is occurring, is the result of greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to impact on our local climate - Could be more prominent in the document as I believe it is a message that needs to be coming from Councillors and senior management of Council if we really are to be open to change and best position our region for the future.	Community submission 13	The acknowledgement is mentioned in several relevant sections.
		human induced climate change acknowledgement - Great to have this include	Community submission 5	Noted
		The rapidly advancing reality of climate change (unequivocally proved and accepted by the world's climatologists) is the reason for and should be that basis of the entire draft. Recognition of the reality of human induced climate change - great.	Community submission 7 Community submission 8	Noted Noted
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 <u>why not encourage existing ones to adapt as well</u> to our region and assist our farmers to utilise new crops. Acknowledging Human induced Climate Change, is occurring, is the result of greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to impact on	Community submission 9 GVEG	Council will be encouraging existing businesses and industries as well. Noted		

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		our local climate is a foundation of changing community attitudes, future planning and our ability achieve the necessary changes for future sustainability.		
8. External Drivers	General	As I see the city in a transition state from a rich, positive irrigated horticultural/agricultural centre to an uncertain future, I believe we need to look to re-inventing aspects of our prosperity and lifestyle – to do this we need an effective policy to provide security and sustainability to our city's future.	Community submission 1	Noted
		There is a huge amount of work to be done by both the Council and our community if we are going to have a sustainable and prosperous future in the Goulburn Valley.	Community submission 17	Noted
	Housing	Policy required to reduce the size and increase the efficiency of all housing - both existing and new	Community submission 9	Council's role is to raise awareness and educate the community about residential home energy efficiency issues and opportunities.
		Recent evidence indicates that the size of new homes decreased last year for the first time in twenty years	Community submission 9	Noted
	Peak oil	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. <u>How is this to be done- faster rail?</u>	Community submission 9	Under "Advocate and collaborate with key stakeholders" key direction for each theme. Added lobby for high speed rail to the Action Plan.
	Population growth	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. <u>Not if we restrict the footprint of development and carry out extensive infill.</u>	Community submission 9	Noted
		Recent evidence indicates that the size of new homes decreased last year for the first time in twenty years. Policy is required to further build on this trend, reduce the size and increase the efficiency of all housing - both existing and new.	GVEG	Noted
		The footprint of development in the COGS needs to be restricted into the future. Higher density living in the CBD and other older areas close to existing infrastructure needs to be encouraged with planning amendments.	GVEG	Noted
	Resource consumption	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. Are there relevant actions associated with this need?	Community submission 9	Yes, covered under all themes and key directions.

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
8. External Drivers	Urban development	The growing footprint of the municipalities urban centres perhaps highlights this point best as valuable productive farmland is taken over for the development of energy and resource dependant estates that have very low densities of residents for the amount of space they take up.	GMLN	Noted
	Wording	The last sentence states" 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 utilise new crops". Suggest replacing the word "utilise" with "cultivate".	GB CMA	Amended
9. Community engagement and concerns	General	Survey results documented in the Strategy from the 'Community Environment Values and Behaviours Survey 2011', show very similar results to those obtained at the University of Melbourne. This information is valuable in developing the Engagement and Communication aspects as documented in the Action Plan 2014-2017, which demonstrates clear actions to improve communications.	University of Melbourne	Noted
	Wording	Page 14 – paragraph 5 - Our community supports a <u>whole (?)</u> of Council approach to improve Council's.	Community submission 5	Amended
11. Commitments	Climate change	Both the Australian Federal Government and Victorian State government 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.	Community submission 11	Noted
		I believe the Strategy incorporates two fundamental points that are critical to our regions response to the many challenges we face including a sustainable natural environment.	Community submission 13	Noted
		Human induced Climate Change & ensuring that environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities of Council Firstly, COGS acknowledges that Human induced Climate Change is occurring, is the result of greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to impact on our local climate. This acknowledgement could be more prominent in the document as I believe it is a message that needs to be coming from Councillors and senior management of Council if we really are to be open to change and best position our region for the future.	Community submission 13	The acknowledgement is mentioned in several relevant sections.
		Many issues can be reported on economics only and social and environmental issues barely rate, often at a greater future cost. This comment particularly applies to climate change.	Community submission 15	Noted
		Human induced climate change - Great to have this included	Community submission 5	Noted

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
11. Commitments	Climate change	I'm delighted with the statement in which the Greater Shepparton City Council acknowledges: "Human induced climate change is occurring, is a result of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to have an impact on our local climate". Recognition of the reality of human induced climate change - great.	Community submission 7	Noted
		Acknowledging Human induced Climate Change, is occurring, is the result of greenhouse gas emissions from the consumption of fossil fuels and that it is beginning to impact on our local climate is a foundation of changing community attitudes, future planning and our ability achieve the necessary changes for future sustainability. GVEG believes this acknowledgement should be give more prominence in the Draft Strategy as it is a message that needs to be coming from Councillors and senior management of Council.	Community submission 8 GVEG	Noted This acknowledgement is within the relevant sections (key drivers, Councils commitment section) of the Strategy. Identify and prioritise climate change activities is also mentioned in the introduction and purpose chapter.
	General	"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." - <u>Needs to go further</u>	Community submission 9	The ESS and Action Plan will take these further.
	Leading by example	From an economic and personal point of view it is of most importance that "our" council leaders, associated consultants and staff enact "best practice" to minimise negative contributions to air, water and land quality. Secondly is the objective to ensure environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities of Council. This is an essential aspect in all business management, but more critical than ever for local government and sustainable long term planning. Council should be a leader	Community submission 11 Community submission 13	Noted Noted
	Rate rebate	I think your TfN rate rebates should be mentioned. I see the rate rebates as a council program. It shows long term commitment to biodiversity protection.	Community submission 9	Noted
	Sustainability principles	The strategy makes the point that the city of Greater Shepparton has been cleared more than most parts of Victoria, resulting in a very fragmented, stressed environment. This effectively means that if a balance between economic, social and environment needs is to be achieved then things have to be skewed towards environmental considerations until such time as there is a more even distribution of resource use and conservation.	Trust for Nature Community submission 4	Amended Refer to chapter 3, 7 & 11

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
11. Commitments	Urban development	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. <u>Need to provide further info as unclear</u>	Community submission 9	A statement is all that is required in this section.
		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. <u>See earlier comment re redesign and strengthening of CBD.</u>	Community submission 9	Noted
	Waste targets	The strategy makes reference to the Victorian Government's landfill and resource recovery targets on page 18 and in the Action Plan, but since the change of government specific targets are not identified and therefore this section of the strategy may need to be reviewed.	University of Melbourne	Noted
	Wording	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.	Community submission 9	Amended
		Split last paragraph into two sentences rather than one long sentence, to become: Council is recognised as an industry leader in regards to our waste recovery efforts in rural Victoria. Council has won .....that is being sent to landfill.	GB CMA	Amended
		Page 17...our municipalities remnant native vegetation has significant environmental value...should also state cultural value.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended
12. Mission and visions	Figure 8	This figure helps explain the overarching strategic framework that has been applied to the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. We would suggest that expanding this to include and define the other key components of Table 1 and the action plan; being aspirational environmental outcomes and performance indicators/targets, would help to further demonstrate the relationship between table 1and the action plan. Alternatively you could explain the definition of the terms used in a Glossary.	GB CMA	Amended
	Mission	The visions for the Strategy on page 21 are very good, but we suggest a review of the mission. It currently reads as an objective rather than a high level statement of what the Strategy will achieve.	University of Melbourne	Noted
	Vision	The Cussen Park Advisory Committee is strongly supportive of a unifying environmental framework and the vision proposed in the draft strategy.	Cussen Park Advisory	Noted

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
			Committee	
13. Strategic themes	Cultural values	Strategic themes (13) page 21...protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)...could also state cultural site protection after native vegetation offsets.		Amended
	Regional Catchment Strategy links	We are pleased to see that the Draft ESS complements our RCS by integrating the assets of land, biodiversity , water and people into your Strategy's key themes and by incorporating our key strategic objectives and actions within your strategy .	GB CMA	Noted
	Urban development	The growing footprint of the municipalities urban centres perhaps highlights this point best as valuable productive farmland is taken over for the development of energy and resource dependant estates that have very low densities of residents for the amount of space they take up.	GMLN	Noted
14. Key directions	Community capacity	Empowering the community – we need to make sure that they are not doing the work for us.	Staff 10	Noted
	Compliance and enforcement	The last paragraph in this section "Lack of enforcement ....for many environment related regulations" seems more like a driver as to why using planning and regulation powers is an important key direction, rather than been part of the key direction itself. Suggest removing this paragraph from here.	GB CMA	Amended
		It was good to see the commitment to using COGS regulatory powers by increasing the compliance of planning permits.	Trust for Nature	Noted
	Council capacity	Council need to increase OUR capacity to help the community//we need to be empowering Council to be able to empower the community.	Staff 10	Noted
	Council supporting the community	Achieving sustainability is a community-wide undertaking and somewhere within the plan, council should be making specific comment about its support, both morally and financially, for community groups working to help our communities understand the importance of embracing such changes to lifestyles, individually and as communities.	Community submission 7	Noted
	Education & awareness	To me the key directions (p22) are very important – public education on the issues is an ongoing need and need to be planned and resourced.	Community submission 1	Noted
		Council must work especially hard to ensure long term environmental resilience, council must commit more resources to educating residents and visitors about the ecological needs of the floodplain and associated waterways.	Community submission 4	Noted
14. Key directions	Education & awareness	General overall behaviour of public etc - There are many aspects in the community to be considered. It is the people problems that require attention (not necessarily Council's responsibility. ie Activities for youth, after hours entertainments, alcohol, drugs etc,	Community submission 16	Environmental education and raising community awareness about how certain behaviours have negative impacts on the

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
		general overall behaviour of public etc.		environment lies within the scope of the strategy. Resolving the social issues mentioned in this comment lies outside the scope of the ESS and have been forwarded to Council's Community Strengthening Branch.
	Leading by example	I particularly like the way the Strategy objectives and outcomes begin with the Council leading by example. It is important that local government leads by example	Community submission 14 Community submission 4	Noted Noted
		It is important that local government leads by example and GMLN welcomes this strategy's efforts in getting sustainable development principles into councils strategic thinking and development. This is an area that still needs much work if the notion of sustainable resource use across all sectors is to be entrenched.	GMLN	Noted
		Time for the Council to lead and develop a multi-faceted one stop economic "can do" business centre to wrap everything up in the one package, incorporating our economic and environmental aspirations.		Noted
	Partnerships	"Community with Council support" is the way it should always be so we are noting taking credit for the community's efforts.	Staff 10	Noted
<b>15. Objectives and outcomes</b>	Aspirational outcomes	While many environmental issues are outside the control of Council, I cannot see how the ratepayers can judge the performance of the Council from this Strategy. I am particularly concerned about the reporting of the areas in which Council has ownership. To change both the mindset of residents towards a sustainable future, and to actually achieve improvements in each of the areas listed is going to be challenging. I am a little concerned about the term 'aspirational', not because the intention is not there in this Strategy, but because it is too easy for staff who don't prioritise environmental objectives to say achieving them is too hard so not worth trying.	Community submission 15 Community submission 17 Community submission 17	Noted Noted Responsible managers will be responsible for staff who do not prioritise the implementation of relevant actions in the Strategy.

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
15. Objectives and outcomes	Aspirational outcomes	I recoil somewhat from the idea of describing something as "aspirational" as that is far too easy from which to retreat from with comment such as: "That was only aspirational".	Community submission 7	Council has no intention of retreating from any commitment outlined in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy. The term aspirational has been included because Council acknowledge that even if we achieve all of the Strategy's actions, unforeseen factors that lie outside of Councils control may influence or determine if the large-scale outcomes listed in the Strategy are fulfilled.
		"These aspirational environmental outcomes will ultimately determine whether conditions in our environment have improved during the life of the Strategy". <u>-Not sure what this sentence means</u>	Community submission 9	Amended
		"The total area of high habitat and conservation value native vegetation in the municipality is increased" <u>BY SAY 10%</u>	Community submission 9	Council have identified trends to achieve, not specific targets. The statistics for many outcomes are unknown at present so a 10% increase may be an unrealistic figure.
		All projected outcomes should have targets otherwise how can you determine if the outcome has been achieved. if you cannot determine a measure to gain success you cannot develop an action. This comment applies to all themes. Maybe best to leave this section out all together if you don't have targets. The outcomes detailed don't appear to be aspirational.	Community submission 9	This chapter has been retained in the Final-Strategy. This chapter is important because it will remain as part of the Strategy throughout the review process, whereas the action plan will be replaced every four years. The action plan contains specific actions and targets to determine the success of the action plan. The aspirational outcomes are large scale environmental improvements that Council aim to achieve over the long-term life of the Strategy (16 years)
		<u>What about existing industries changing?</u>	Community submission 9	This is included in the "community" key direction.

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
15. Objectives and outcomes	Aspirational outcomes	As per the other five themes, we would suggest the need to add to the aspirational environmental outcomes column the two outcomes of: "The number of Council involved partnership programs is increased", and "The number of successful funding applications is increased"	GB CMA	Amended
		Again to make these "aspirational" environmental outcomes, (as per previous comments) we would suggest that the wording of these two outcomes could be something like:- Council is involved in effective partnership programs, and Council is successful in their funding applications	GB CMA	The aspirational environmental outcomes are not measured outcomes. They provide an description of the what we aspire to achieve from the implementation of the Strategy. The measurable outcomes are contained in the Action Plan
	The way that the aspirational environmental outcomes are currently worded in this table would lead the reader to believe that these will be measured against a benchmark or known starting value, in order to determine whether there has been an increase or decrease in the outcome, rather than them being aspirational environmental outcomes. For Example: "The presence of introduced pest species is decreased" if this was a measure of success the outcome would need to read something like "the presence of introduced pest species is decreased by 20% from 1999 pest species levels." However as our understanding is that these are "aspirational" indicators of Strategy objective success and not a "measure", more appropriate wording would be: "The municipality is free of introduced pest species" Another example would be instead of saying "Council's potable water consumptions is reduced" and "Council's non-potable water consumptions is reduced" (pg. 24),the aspirational environmental outcome could be worded as: "Council utilises its potable water consumption efficiently" and "Council minimises its use of non-potable water consumption". Suggest that Council changes the wording of the aspirational environmental outcomes in table 1, to reflect that they are aspirational outcomes as opposed to a measured outcome or alternatively put measures/targets against these.	GVEG	Noted	
	Biodiversity	Great goals - ambitious in regards to improving biodiversity and making change.	Trust for Nature	Noted

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
15. Objectives and outcomes	Drought	Page 24 – Water resources – Drought management should be in there, considering climate change issues. Pg 24 – objective 3 – “and drought events”	Community submission 15 Community submission 5	Being prepared for the impacts of drought will be included in the review of the Sustainable Water Use Plan and Stormwater Management Plan
	Leading by example	I particularly like the way the Strategy objectives and outcomes begin with the Council leading by example.	Community submission 14	Noted
	Objectives	We would suggest that the objectives listed in Table 1 are numbered to match their corresponding objectives in the Action Plan 2014-2017 (Table 2?) on pages 29-46, to help clearly demonstrate the connection between these two tables. Many of the objectives are worded the same in the two tables, however there are instances throughout where they are not. To help further demonstrate that these objectives are the same in both tables, we would suggest that the same wording is used in both instances. For example: the objective that would be numbered as 1.2 on page 23 (second objective) reads as: "Utilise Council's planning and regulation powers to achieve best practice land and biodiversity outcomes.", whereas the same objective 1.2 on page 30 of the action plan reads: "To regulate land use, development and amenity to achieve best practice land and biodiversity outcomes."	GB CMA	Amended
	Omission	Whilst page 13 of the Strategy acknowledges that Council needs to be prepared to support the community to adapt to the changing climate/future climate and recognises the need to assist farmers to utilise new crops, there are no objectives in either of these two themes that relate to sustainable and/or innovative agriculture. We would suggest the inclusion of an objective that supports the establishment of sustainable agricultural practices.	GB CMA	Amended
	Regional Catchment Strategy	We are pleased to see that the Draft ESS complements our RCS by integrating the assets of land, biodiversity, water and people into your Strategy's key themes and by incorporating our key strategic objectives and actions within your strategy.	GB CMA	Noted
	Threatened species	Page 23 – ch15 Aspirational environmental outcome – the habitat available for key threatened species to utilise urban areas is increased – “more protection”	Community submission 5	Noted
	Water quality	Ob 5 – outcome 2 – change wording “increase water quality is shown by improved measurement results at key monitoring sites”	Community submission 5	Considered
	Wording	Page 23 – ch15 – objectives and outcomes – last sentence – “big sentence”	Community submission 5	Amended

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Draft Strategy Ref/ Chapter	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
15. Objectives and outcomes	Wording	<p>The introductory paragraph to table one notes that: "these aspirational environmental outcomes are a measure of Strategy objective success as opposed to the key indicators/targets listed in the action plan, which measure strategy action plan success".</p> <p>Suggest changing the wording of this sentence to: "these aspirational environmental outcomes are an indicator of Strategy objective success as opposed to the performance measures/targets listed /n the action plan which measure Strategy action plan success".</p> <p>It may be useful to add to the above sentence a statement that makes the link from the aspirational environmental outcomes to the action plan. Suggested wording for this sentence could be: By undertaking/implementing the actions listed in the action plan, it is assumed that this will lead to achieving the aspirational environmental outcomes.</p>	GB CMA	Amended

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Table 2: Comments received on the contents of the Action Plan

Actions/KPIs	is the Action plan measurable enough? Some targets still lacking. Improve/increase but not specific.	Staff 11	Amended
Community	Some emphasis has been placed on securing innovative renewable or alternative energy industries or businesses to the region, however the greatest impact on our environment can be achieved through encouragement and support to existing businesses in adapt to changes. Our community has shown a great capacity to be resilient in the face of adversity, and I believe that much more work needs to be placed in the area of leadership and promoting the "how to", that appears to be missing in our community. Many of the associated groups and individuals have an immense knowledge and experience base with enthusiasm and desire to create these changes.	Community submission 11	Noted
Community engagement	Survey results documented in the Strategy from the 'Community Environment Values and Behaviours Survey 2011' - This information is valuable in developing the Engagement and Communication aspects as documented in the Action Plan 2014-2017, which demonstrates clear actions to improve communications.	University of Melbourne	Noted
Council resources	The Strategy relies heavily on external funding, thought should be given to raising funds internally (rates) to lift environments share of the overall pie. This will give greater leverage when seeking external funding and also be needed to deal with complex climate issues that may result from climate change.	Community submission 15	Noted
Finance	You could have an explanation of costs where appropriate ..... at the end.	Staff 8	Noted
General	Actions relating to GVW have been well represented.	GVW	Noted
General	The Strategy is in some cases broad in explaining the actions to be addressed, however it also comments specifically on other Council Plans and Management Strategy's. Which I believe is a good method of ensuring they are appropriately completed.	GVW	Noted
Implementation	I wish to raise the question of policy implementation – the who does what, when, where and who pays! With the "action bias" of this document, it would appear that stakeholders will attempt to work towards getting improvements/rehabilitation done ie river care, water quality, weed control, revegetation, rubbish control, vermin control ie Indian Mynas, rabbits, feral cats, etc need active control measures <b>now!!</b>	Community submission 1	Noted
Indigenous/cultural	Please also incorporated my comments into the tabled action plan where relevant.	GB CMA Indigenous NRM Co-ordinator	Amended
Omission	Suggest adding the Municipal Catchment Coordinator position to action 6.9.1 as programs that Council currently contributes to.	GB CMA	Amended
Partnerships	Whilst it is noted on Pg. 29 that Pg. 46 lists the partnership organisations and groups that	GB CMA	Noted

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	will assist with the implementation of the Strategy, the Goulburn Broken CMA is not listed against any of the actions in the action plan. The Goulburn Broken CMA would like to offer to provide support and work in partnership with Greater Shepparton City Council on a number of actions, particularly those actions under the themes of: 1. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity)- actions 1.1.1,1.2.1,1.2.2,1.2.3, 1.4.1 and 1.4.2. 2. Healthy, productive and sustainable water resources - actions 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.5.2,2.5.3, 2.6.1, 2.6.2 and 2.6.3 6. Council governance and operations- actions 6.8.1, 6.8.2,6.9.1 and 6.9.2.		
Regional Catchment Strategy Reviews	We are pleased to see that the Draft ESS complements our RCS by integrating the assets of land, biodiversity, water and people into your Strategy's key themes and by incorporating our key strategic objectives and actions within your strategy.	GB CMA	Noted
	Lots of reviews to occur in AP. What will come out of these is very important. Will the S&E team get the resources they need?	GB LGBRG	Noted
	Strategy seems to make reference to quite a lot of other plans which they are committing to review – the outcomes for these document reviews may not deliver much	GVW	Noted
Stakeholders	What about naming the key partners in the action plan?	GB CMA	Noted, no room in the tables for an extra column.
	We may apply for funding but we might not get it. Change wording for all ap - apply - not receive funding. It is out of our control if we receive or not.	Staff 11	Amended
Sustainable agriculture	Council forums on sustainable farming / biodiversity / alternative crops if your future budget allows for guest speakers to come to our region could be held at Eastbank.	Staff 20	Noted
	Need to include the sustainable agriculture project (mapping, land use etc.) too. Where in AP?	Staff 20	Amended
	There is no substantial reference to sustainable farming methods as part of the biodiversity, water use and "act locally" concepts. I think the progressive (and especially recent) issues faced by primary producers would make the time ripe for bringing this discussion forward. Sustainable farming links in with niche local markets, less travel and transport, water sustainability, environmental impact and developing markets in the products of sustainable farming. It is surprising that this conversation rarely comes up and perhaps Council could lead some community discussion on future farming methods and potential markets for produce grown sustainably.	Staff 20	Noted
Targets	Whilst much work has gone into performance indicators and targets I would like to see more clearly defined targets that can be easily understood by the community and simply reported against.	Community submission 13	Noted
Timelines	Perhaps time lines and return dates with achievable targets need to be in place, rather	Community	Noted

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Timelines	than having short and long term goals.	submission 11	
	The Draft Strategy action plans are comprehensive, clearly identifying timelines, resource implications and who is responsible.	Community submission 13	Noted
	I have reservations about the use of vague dates for the realization of targets, such as "short term", "medium term", "long term" and "ongoing". Regarding the latter, facts should be listed to illustrate how and why something is "ongoing", and rather than short, medium and long term, actual dates should be used to focus thinking and activities and then some definitive procedure outlined, followed, the detail the success or failure in achieving whatever the goal may have been.	Community submission 7	Some good points here but Council have kept the draft strategy timelines because the explanation of these at the start of the action plan clearly sets out the years that these actions will be completed.
	It would appear that some target dates do not accord with timelines	Community submission 9	Amended
	It would be better to put the years in table	Community submission 9	Council have kept the draft strategy timelines because the explanation of these at the start of the action plan clearly sets out the years that these actions will be completed.
Wording	The Action Plan 2014-2017 outlines the actions that Council will <del>endeavour</del> <u>intends</u> to implement over the next four years (subject to budget approval and external funding opportunities).	Community submission 9	Amended
	The actions 1.1.1& 1.1.2 etc include performance indicators/targets to: "Review current plans/strategies" and then lists those strategies due to be reviewed. We would suggest that you include the year of the current strategy i.e Roadside Management Strategy 2006 to help establish the need for a review.	GB CMA	Noted
Biodiversity & recreation	More emphasis could be given on the significance of GSCC protecting, managing and investing in sites like Cussen Park, which not only provide critical habitat for native fauna and a means to preserve biodiversity, but also acts as a focal point for community recreation and wellbeing.	Cussen Park Advisory Committee	Noted
Compliance and enforcement	1.2.4. The reduction of illegal activity concerning Local Laws and the Planning Scheme and the improvement of planning permit conditions by undertaking an annual audit is supported, however GVEG is calling for detailed audit of Planning Permits that include native vegetation clearing and the requirements for off-set plantings. Ideally this would be based on 10 years of works to also give an indication of current trends.	GVEG	Noted
	How will the planning department report on compliance?	Anonymous 1	This will be discussed further with the

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Compliance and enforcement	I am aware of property developments that have commenced before they have even been signed off ie Kialla lakes. How can they be adhering to conditions prior to having them signed off? Planning permit conditions - Who ensures that these are adhered to? Does anyone check if these are adhered to? LL – infringement/penalty units – not prosecution – review some stats Need to change the wording here – the aim is really to reduce the number of instances that occur in the community. – proportion would be better? Success rate. Enforcement is about resolution and education. Increase the number of successful outcomes. Decrease the number of planning breaches occurring. Local laws wording as well.	Anonymous 1 Anonymous 1 Staff 4 Staff 7 & 8	Planning Department This will be discussed further with the Planning Department This will be discussed further with the Planning Department Amended Amended
Education and awareness	More emphasis could be given on the value of Cussen Park and similar assets in the region as an education resource (particular for school aged children in the region). More emphasis could be given to consider ways that ecological/wetland functions, supported by sites such as Cussen Park, can be better communicated to (and understood by) the wider community.	Cussen Park Advisory Committee	Noted Noted
Cussen Park	The Committee is very pleased to see the review of the cussen park Management plan listed as a short term action in the draft strategy. We look forward to being a resource to GSCC and having an active role in this upcoming review process.		Noted
Development and land use	The need to consider how land use and development decisions made in areas adjacent to assets like Cussen Park have a bearing on the long term viability of the asset, and also affect the extent to which aspirational environmental outcomes (such as improved connectivity between areas of native vegetation, success of weed management and litter control) can be realised.		Noted
Firewood collection	Pleased to see this action.  Develop an annual media campaign (including a minimum circulation of four communications per year via traditional and social media avenues. <u>The importance of fallen timber should be included</u>	Community submission 5 Community submission 9	Noted The importance of retaining fallen timber will be included.
Habitat loss	As well as being at risk from landowners individual trees are more vulnerable to storm, heat nutrient variation damage. We must also remember that most of the individual trees are elderly and will mostly naturally disappear over the next few decades. From a	Community submission 3	Noted

	sustainability point of view, these individual trees maintain a limited range of wildlife eg. Large birds only, virtually no ground animals, few insects.		
KPI's	need to improve the wording of the KPI's	Staff 2	Amended
Native vegetation	At present there is a war of attrition with some landholders over these trees. There has been a continuous removal of individual trees, just one here and there "accidentally".	Community submission 3	Noted
	From an agricultural point of view the production of the area revolves almost entirely around grain production. Property size and machinery size is increasing dramatically with a resultant loss of population. The large machinery has necessitated the need to reduce obstacles in the paddocks. Most internal fences have been removed and individual trees can be seen by some landholders to be a nuisance. The individual old trees in the paddocks are probably one of the reasons why negotiating with landholders and pragmatism is necessary.		Noted
	My suggestion is that we should be concentrating on the promotion and expansion of groups, drifts, and copses of trees as an alternative to trying to maintain individual trees.		Noted
	The aims of the environmental Sustainability Strategy obviously needs to be varied to take the above Dookie factors (chap 2) recognising that here we have a range of hills isolated from any other hills in the region. With these thoughts in mind we need to be prepared to merge the needs and desires of landholders on one hand and the necessity to consider sustainability on the other. Pragmatism on both sides is required to reach a settlement suitable to both sides.		Noted
	These groups of trees should be big enough to sustain a wide variety of wildlife and understory plant life. The groups of trees should be close enough to allow migration of wildlife between the groups. As a former fire-fighter I am not in favour of fallen limbs being left to build up to large quantities because of the threat of wildfire passing through causing a high fatality rate.		Noted
	Develop (an implement) a strategic corridor protection and establishment to target threatened, FFG listed, and/or EPBC listed species and communities.	DEPI	Amended
	Strategic Theme 1 - Protecting and enhancing our natural assets (land and biodiversity) should include performance indicators/targets to focus on protection, securing and maintenance of key offsets and biodiversity/connectivity corridors.		Noted
native vegetation removal	Over the counter offset scheme - Need to work with GBCMA and others.	Community submission 9	Council will work with the relevant stakeholders to implement Action 1.2.2

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Native vegetation removal	There should be a target that no native veg should be destroyed .	Community submission 9	It would be unrealistic to have a target that no native vegetation is destroyed (removed) in the City of Greater Shepparton. State Government legislation regulates the permitted clearing of native vegetation; Council is not the legislative authority. Council can work within the parameters of this legislation to work with the applicant to ensure that the quantity of vegetation is minimised (or avoided altogether) and if removed, seek the best offset outcome available.
Offset program	Page 32 – Introduce a catchment wide offset program. Some concerns about this action with the new state government legislation. Will they be supportive? There is a need to improve the monitoring of offsets sites better (private/public).	Anonymous 3	DEPI are very supportive of this Action 1.4.1. DEPI mentioned that this is an important action to include in their submission. DEPI, GB CMA and Local Governments in the catchment have already held discussions to explore how this action could be realised.
Over the counter offset scheme	<p>Develop (and implement) a strategic offset plan to target threatened, FFG listed, and/or EPBC listed species and communities.</p> <p>Page 31 – Explore the feasibility of introducing an over the counter offset scheme. – I don't like the idea of an over the counter offset scheme, when less than 2% of our native vegetation left. Would prefer Council to consider some rate relief or alternate scheme, offsets will only lead to further losses by attrition. I can see no reason why ratepayers should not be prepared to pay a little more to protect what is left of our natural environment. In many cases we maybe only talking about one or two mature trees here but they cannot be replaced by offsets for about 200-300 years. There is no shortage of land in the Goulburn Valley.</p>	DEPI  Community submission 15	<p>Amended</p> <p>State Government legislation dictates the requirements for native vegetation removed in our municipality and the offsetting of any native vegetation removed is an important component of this legislation. An over the counter offset scheme would change the approval process of planning decisions. It would however, contribute to a greater long term environmental outcomes by ensuring that offsets are protected in larger patches at more strategic locations.</p>

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Parks and gardens	What about provision for the beautification and upkeep of Parkside Gardens estate and waterways. They are a disgrace at the present with rubbish in the waterways that haven't been attended to for at least 18 months.	Community submission 18	This comment was forwarded to the Recreation and Parks Team for actioning.
Planning Scheme amendments	Introduce planning overlays that will protect strategic areas of biodiversity importance for both offsets and corridors. Fees are \$700+\$900+\$800 =~\$2.5K to amend Planning Scheme	DEPI Staff 7 & 8	Action 1.2.1, 1.2.2 Amended
Reporting	Planning have a "fly in squad" who may be available to work on Action plan Planning Scheme amendments. Page 30 – 1.2.2 Monitor and report annually to Council and the community on the quantity of native vegetation retained and removed. This is a weak comment – eventually you could lose most of our native vegetation simply by yearly attrition, as we currently have less than 2% left.	Staff 7 & 8 Community submission 15	Noted Yes, our municipality may lose native vegetation via attrition but it is very important that figures surrounding tree retention and removal via the planning permit scheme is communicated to Council and the community. This will provide some accountability and raise awareness of the native removal process and provide some recognition that plans are often changed to avoid and minimise the amount of native vegetation removed.
Rate rebate - TfN	I think your TfN rate rebates should be mentioned in the action plan. I see the rate rebates as a council program. It shows long term commitment to biodiversity protection.	Trust for Nature	Amended
KPI's	Complete 80% of the actions identified in the ..... Lot many kpi's. <u>Surely you intend to complete all otherwise you are planning to fail.</u>	Community submission 9	Council intends to complete all of the actions identified in this Strategy and all the other strategies and plans listed in the action plan. However, it is not realistic to expect that every single action will be achieved when some actions may be dependent on the weather, no changes to State or Federal Government legislation, landholder support, staffing numbers etc. The target of 80% is seen to be aiming fairly high but is deemed to be both

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			achievable and realistic.
Shared paths	Landscaping and Native Open Space – maintain only next to the paths – not the paths themselves.	Staff 14 & 15	Noted
	Action – adequately maintain walking/shared paths..., is that if shared paths are mentioned Assets branch needs to be included too.	Staff 2	Amended
	maintaining paths – shared paths fit under the assets area.	Staff 14 & 15	Amended
	Shared paths	Staff 5	Noted
Significant Tree Register	Page 29 – would like to see a significant rural tree register as well as the urban tree register.	Community submission 15	Amended
	Pg 29 – 1.1.2 – Maybe non-urban register as well	Community submission 5	Amended
	change to MT from LT	Staff 5	Amended
	Heritage Victoria have a State-wide significant tree register – look into what other Councils have been doing a lot in this space.	Staff 5	This will be investigated during the implementation of this action.
	Incorporate strategic planning controls as part of this. Protection of tree overlays for significant trees on public and private land. Important that both are included. Cultural and environmentally significant trees.	Staff 5	This will be investigated during the implementation of this action.
	Parks 2050 Strategy - Work with Recreation and Parks Strategic Officer to include sustainable approaches. Council, Parks Victoria etc. managed land included in scope. Read project brief.	Staff 5	Amended
Street Tree Master Plan & Urban Character Study	Both of these are always being looked at - change to ongoing. There are some changes that will be occurring soon.	Staff 5	Amended
	new tree trials are occurring all the time - ongoing	Staff 5	Amended
	UCS is not expected to change much in the next four years	Staff 5	Noted
Weeds & pests	If money is available the land holder should be paid to control weeds and vermin. There is a major problem as even feral trees are prevalent.	Community submission 3	Noted
	Rabbit plan – what about foxes? These could be more of an issue than rabbits. Could change it to explore the feasibility of developing an “urban pest control plan”? Explore funding opportunities to develop..... This plan would cover cats, foxes, rabbits, hares, birds (mynas).	Staff 14 & 15	Amended



Weed control	<p>Perhaps it is the nature of documents such as this, but there does seem to be a lack of firm targets or strategies. One case in point that I see as a growing problem is that of woody weeds on roadsides. In section 15, p 23 there are the aspirational outcomes that: The presence of introduced pest species is decreased &amp; The diversity and cover of weed species is decreased - I wonder how this is to be achieved. Among the problems I see are: prunus sp., desert ash, African boxthorn, olives, Peppercorns, prickly pear, sweet briar, blackberry. I would like to suggest a plan to poison these weeds on a regular 3 or 4 year cycle on Council property, and to work constructively with Vic roads to do the same on their roadsides.</p>	Community submission 8	<p>Many specific on-ground implementation activities have not been included due to the high level strategic nature of the Strategy. Including this level of detail would have resulted in the Strategy being an extremely large document so Council has developed an 'implementation activity' spreadsheet that sits below the strategy and will drive the achievement of the strategy's action plan. However, some of the implementation activity specifics have been provided as a performance indicators/targets.</p> <p>Council has been undertaking control activities over the last couple of years on the majority of the woody weed species listed here and several are included in Council's roadside weed and pest control plan. Council acknowledge that all of the weeds listed are problematic and should be controlled but limited budget and State and Federal Government's usually our weed control priorities.</p>
	<p><u>What about Caltrop eradication</u></p>	Community submission 9	<p>Council actively controls any reported sightings of caltrop.</p>
	<p>Caltrop control plan - Does not have a specific budget but they take it out of a general ledger – for parks and nature strips.</p>	Staff 14 & 15	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>Melton Council had a weed control rate rebate. If people demonstrated that they had controlled listed weeds and had none on site they qualified for this.</p>	Staff 14 & 15	<p>Noted.</p>
	<p>Weed strategy – CNG – improved</p>	Staff 14 & 15	<p>Noted</p>
	<p>Change wording of the RWRCP. We only have funding until the next financial year, then what? Budget/funding.</p>	Staff 14 & 15	<p>Amended</p>

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Woodlot - community	Council should discuss with GO TAFE - The GO TAFE property along Wanganui Rd has about 180 acres of land. The land cannot be sold, but is underutilised.. It might be possible to use part of their property for long-term sustainable firewood harvesting plot/woodlot. This would address long-term issues around the community's need for firewood and hopefully reduce instances of illegal collection in parks, reserves, road reserves. Could utilise planters that could do a large scale site. Water rights sold off but the water treatment plant is only next door. Could also use the site for study/education purposes – set up as a bit of a study/experiment?	Community submission 1	Amended
Wording	The first performance indicators/targets for action 1.1.2 reads "Review of the 2017",we believe that this is a typing error and should instead read as "Review current plans/strategies". Whilst the performance indicators/targets listed under action 1.1.2 of; "review current/plans and strategies" and "develop new plans/strategies" refer to strategies that relate to actions that the Parks and Recreation branch would implement. We would suggest that the review/development of these strategies and plans listed under the two performance indicators/targets, would better fit against action 1.1.1,and then create a separate action under 1.1.2 that relates to the implementation of these plans and strategies.	GB CMA	Amended
Warning system	Develop a risk management "environmental warning system" for outdoor works programs by 2016. <u>Council wide implementation required.</u>	Community submission 9	This will be Council-wide program.

Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Water	Audit	Undertake an audit – EPA waterways would need to be involved. Oil/paint down drains? Mostly building site focus.	Staff 2	Amended
	Drought	Page 24 – Water resources – Drought management should be in there, considering climate change issues.	Community submission 15	Being prepared for the impacts of drought will be included in the review of the Sustainable Water Use Plan and Stormwater Management Plan
	Domestic Wastewater Management Plan	Domestic Wastewater Management Plan is included – seems as though an inspection program is not currently in-place	GVW	Noted
		80% target is ambitious – but should be ok. Monitoring is a better word to use than inspect – change wording in AP. "monitor the compliance of septic tank.....	Staff 4 Staff 4	Noted Amended

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Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Water	Education & awareness	Responsibility of Sustainability & Environment <u>and other regional partners</u>	Community submission 9	Council will work with our regional partners to implement Action 2.5.4
	Monitoring use	The only thing I think could perhaps be covered more is a current gap that I believe exists in utilising our utility bills to monitor water consumption. We receive bills from our water and energy providers that has useful data on our consumption and whether or not it is increasing or decreasing. We have the data but we don't use it. This would be a valuable information tool in determining whether we are consuming (wasting) our energy & water.	Staff 18	Noted, Action 2.1.1
	Partnerships	Add - Catchment Salinity Asset Works and Community Surface Water Management programs Council partnership contributions	GB CMA	Amended
		In addition to this, (also probably irrelevant here), there is a plan to roll out the Choose Tap education program within businesses – potentially starting with GBCMA in near future, but could be extended to Council within the next 12 months.	GVW	Noted
		Possibly irrelevant but worth mentioning in a broader context - a number of drink fountains were recently erected with Council branding and 'water is a healthy option' messaging – this was an excellent partnering opportunity, to share key messages, promote our product, co-brand, but we didn't know about the project so were not able to be involved. Personally I see this as perpetuating an already confused message. Council is providing water???	GVW	Noted
There is an objective listed regarding promotion of efficient water use – I hope the aspirational outcome of increasing partnership programs includes increasing relevant partnerships with us. This applies for 2.5.1 in particular 'Council will partner with and empower our community to reduce water use'. It makes sense that we are involved, even drive, this initiative with Council involvement – but 'partnering' in recent years has been limited to Terry Tap attending the Twilight Stroll series, and there is also occasional involvement from the River Connect representative at activities run by the GVW Education Team. I think the opportunities to do something more meaningful are being missed. So Jacinta and I look forward to contact from the relevant council group to coordinate some materials or events that push this message.	GVW	Noted, Actions 2.1.1, 2.5.1		
While the relevant parts of this draft strategy focus on water conservation I do think it's worth flagging that partnering with Council is something we could/should be doing much more regularly.	GVW	Noted		

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Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Action/outcome/comment
Water	Partnerships	How will the data be collected for reporting? – Compliance, infringements?	Staff 4	This will be discussed further with the Planning and Local Laws Departments
	Planning and Enforcement	Part 5 - Building sites – LL // community education and awareness aspects // promotional stuff.	Staff 4	Noted
	Reporting	Jobs through merit/needs to be consistent. Pathway – merit into	Staff 2	Noted
	Review of plans	We may need to change the timelines for the SWUP & SWMP. The Office of Living Victoria has a major water strategy for regional cities (potentially including Shepparton). It would be better to review our water plans after we have a better understanding of the specifics of this OLV strategy.	Staff	Noted
	RiverConnect	Explore the feasibility of constructing a Sustainability Centre as the centre point of the RiverConnect project on the bank of the River	Community submission 9	To be discussed during the RiverConnect Strategy review process.
		Investigate opportunities to engage local businesses and organisations to participate in the “adopt a reach program”.	Community submission 9	Amended
	Stormwater Management Plan	Target large stormwater outlets into River - eg behind Council Offices- for reuse - New Govt initiative through OLV	Community submission 9	Noted, Action 2.2.2
		There is currently no agreement with, or even advice to, councils regarding observation of the Permanent Water Saving Rules. Adherence to these rules (namely using sprinklers after 6pm, before 10am) should be noted as a way that they can both lead by example and also reduce water consumption – this applies even if non-potable water is being used to water parks and gardens (example is about perception, and they list reduction of both potable and non-potable water as aspirational outcomes)	GVW	Noted, Action 2.1.1
	Service plans	Council should also be driven by our Organisation’s service planning through consultation with the community. For example – Rec & Parks water all reserves during Summer. Proper service planning may identify that the community are happy for certain reserves not to be watered during summer – thus conserving water. I think this is an important aspect that should be incorporated into the action plan (i.e. stakeholder consultation leading to potential savings).	Staff 18	Noted

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Alternate & renewable energy	Are we "The Solar City" or are we not?	Community submission 11	Noted
	Page 36 – Climate change and energy efficiency – promote the use of solar panels – agree with this but we are the "solar city" and we should go further and explore the value of a large community solar grid.	Community submission 15	Action 3.3.1
	Concentrate on developing GV Link site with businesses that use closed loop material or other energy efficient processes	Community submission 9	Action 3.3.1
	KPI - 3.3.1 - Why not assist existing business to develop alternative businesses Promote solar PV panels to increase community use. <u>And large scale PV as well</u> Provide support and assistance to the Tatura Community Energy Project.		Noted Noted Amended
Alternate energy & up-cycling	GVEG believes waste streams in our region are a valuable resource and as such should be utilised or processed to obtain valuable energy and products.	GVEG	Noted
Climate change	Change to develop and implement a climate change <b>mitigation</b> & adaptation plan	Community submission 9	Mitigation activities will be included in the Energy Management Plan (3.1.1) Implementation of Action 3.5.2
	Provide links on Council Web site to site with Climate Change awareness info. Whilst page 13 of the Strategy acknowledges that Council needs to be prepared to support the community to adapt to the changing climate/future climate and recognises the need to assist farmers to utilise new crops,there are no objectives in either of these two themes that relate to sustainable and/or innovative agriculture. We would suggest the inclusion of an objective that supports the establishment of sustainable agricultural practices.	GB CMA	Amended
	The climate change section seems a bit sparse. Are we looking at innovative ways to not only reduce emissions but to deal with the symptoms and likely crucial issues occurring in the "now" and near future? Does this link in with urban design and planning? I may have missed this bit by scanning the document.	Staff 20	The Energy Management Plan (3.1.1) and Climate Change Adaptation Plan (3.2.1) will include innovative ways to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Urban design and new developments are included in Theme 5 - Sustainable development, planning and transport.
Community energy projects	Some emphasis has been placed on securing innovative renewable or alternative energy industries or businesses to the region, however the greatest impact on our environment can be achieved through encouragement and support to existing businesses in adapt to changes. Our community has shown a great capacity to be resilient in the face of	Community submission 11	Noted

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Community energy projects	adversity, and I believe that much more work needs to be placed in the area of leadership and promoting the "how to", that appears to be missing in our community. Provide support and assistance with the development of Tatura's energy descent plan.	Community submission 9	Amended
	Power down project – check out and perhaps include in the ESS AP. Household assessment. CE community energy – Council are a project consortium partner – 31/652/0016. Council involvement – in-kind time - linking in with the different groups and promotion (website etc.). C13/3471 0 check out the content of this letter – perhaps include in ESS.	Staff 10	Amended
	The Investment Attraction team have revised this action and is comfortable with its inclusion in the action plan.	Staff 13	Noted
Energy efficient buildings	Explore the feasibility of developing an energy efficient house GV Community Energy – home energy assessment project	Staff 3 Staff 6	Amended Amended
	I would also like to see some stronger wording around energy efficient buildings, for both Council and residents. I would support council implementing stricter controls on building standards. E.g. All new council buildings will have above required energy star ratings. No exceptions. Trade off e.g. art installations for solar panels if budgets are tight and explain why. New developments same deal. The recent heatwaves have shown how important housing design is, health of residents in badly designed houses in a blackout can have fatal outcomes. It is also about health.	Community submission 17	Noted
Energy management	Building services are satisfied with the content of 3.4.1	Staff 9	Noted
	The only thing I think could perhaps be covered more is a current gap that I believe exists in utilising our utility bills to monitor water consumption. We receive bills from our water and energy providers that has useful data on our consumption and whether or not it is increasing or decreasing. We have the data but we don't use it. This would be a valuable information tool in determining whether we are consuming (wasting) our energy & water.	Staff 18	Noted, Action 3.1.1
	It would be great to have Eastbank, Welsford Offices and the DRC considered as sites for setting an example through introducing innovative ideas (e.g. solar panels, recycling targets, new technologies.) Tracking and reporting on innovative ideas and monitoring the outcomes (such as reduced energy usage) could not only set an example for the community but be used as a basis to share information and prior research with other	Staff 20	Investigated under Actions 3.1.1, 3.5.1, 3.6.1

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	Councils. No mention of the previous Energy Audit. This audit provides key information on how to reduce greenhouse emissions and reduce use of utilities. It also has some "quick fix" items that could be implemented early to get the ball rolling.	Staff 20	New energy audits will be conducted as part of the Energy Management Plan development process (Action 3.1.1)
Green loans	Develop green loans for PV installation on all buildings and other projects eg LED lights.	Community submission 9	Will be discussed during the development of the Energy Management Plan. Council's role is presently seen as encourage, support, raise awareness and educate.
Partnerships	Why not develop and relationship with GV Community Energy	Community submission 9	Action 3.7.1
Urban development	With planning can we make it mandatory to increase energy rating and for planners /developers have to create low energy use buildings/orientation etc.	Community submission 5	Council's role is to promote and encourage. Energy star ratings are set by the State Government and Council does not have the ability to change them.
Hard waste	Page 26 – Would like Council to consider two hard rubbish pick up days a year. I know this comes at a cost, but there is a cost to someone for picking up all the rubbish dumped in reserves and streams. Hard waste collection - would decrease dumping and landfill with people collecting others unwanted goods which would then remain in use in the community.	Community submission 15	Refer to the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy
Paperless office target	Target is 80% paperless. Library new project will result in even less storage for Council. Information Management Strategy (M10/7154). Some legislative requirements state that we need to keep paper copies of certain documents, but there are moves to change these. Improve wording of KPI - Continue to implement the Information Management Strategy to achieve Council's 80% paperless office target.	Community submission 2	Amended
Plastic bag ban	Many local government areas have banned the use plastic bags, we see no reason this could not be considered by COGS.	Staff 2	
		GVEG	Council's role to educate and raise the community's awareness of the quantity of plastic bags going to landfill and the harm they cause to the environment. We would Support community

			groups/community town committees that want to go down this path.
Reporting	Jobs through merit/needs to be consistent. Pathway – merit into	Staff 2	Noted
Rubbish dumping	We need to work out the costs of rubbish dumping across the municipality – LNOS, Mark little, PV and others.	Community submission 2	Amended
	Discourage the practice of .... Monitor and tracking is important for locations where prevalent. Number of prosecutions – try to avoid this kind of wording. Increase compliance and prevention of the need for enforcement.	Staff 2	Amended
	Education is a big component – for community and officers. EPA have invited council officers to attend illegal rubbish dumping enforcement training (2014/16818). Stronger operational – clearly defined process to work through.	Staff 2	Noted
Targets	I would be interesting to find out what rubbish is being dumped. Because we could then do a promotion about certain waste items to the transfer station.	Staff 21	Noted
	The waste management targets seem quite broad – it's not clear as to how they are going to achieve some of the municipal waste reduction objectives	GVW	Noted
	There is no specific waste target mentioned - need to include.	Staff 11	Refer to the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy
	Once targets are included in the overall document the metrics used can be benchmarked with similar organisations. For example on page 38 the action plan references volume of waste diverted from landfill whereas other similar organisations may use mass.	University of Melbourne	Noted
	The strategy makes reference to the Victorian Government's landfill and resource recovery targets on page 18 and in the Action Plan, but since the change of government specific targets are not identified and therefore this section of the strategy may need to be reviewed.	University of Melbourne	Refer to the Waste and Resource Recovery Management Strategy
Up-cycling/ alternate energy	Consideration needs to given to mining all waste to obtain high value resources?	Community submission 9	Noted
	GVEG believes waste streams in our region are a valuable resource and as such should be utilised or processed to obtain valuable energy and products.	GVEG	Amended



Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Sustainable development, planning and transport	Bus interchange	check wording of Maude St redevelopment - *add subject to funding	Staff 7&8	Amended
	Community gardens	Promote urban gardens	Community submission 9	Noted, Parks 2050 Strategy
		Working action – encourage/awareness/website/factsheets? - reword - who will be responsible for this? Community? S&E? Active living? KPI for Active Living not neighbourhoods.	Staff 11	Amended
	Council staff travel	Increase the number of Council staff commuting to work (or work related activities) via walking, cycling or car-pooling. Why not set a target say 20% by 2016 Promote ride to work day - to all council staff (happens in October) Council could develop a "Green Travel Plan"	Staff 6 Community submission 9 Staff 21 Staff 3	Amended The Sustainable Working Group may set a specific target for this KPI Noted, Action 5.2.2 Discuss with Strategic Planning Team
	Cycling Strategy	Cycling Strategy – funding amounts – Add in that we will use the BiXE Victorian Regional Zone Benchmark.	Staff 19	Amended
	Environmental Sensitive Design	planning and reg – “is this for buildings??”  Check ESD principles - Moreland Energy project	Community submission 5  Staff 7&8	Theme 3 includes building energy efficiency, Theme 5 includes developments and infrastructure.  Noted
	Fleet	an action for works not Prop. & Procurement	Staff 12	Amended
	Freight and rail	Rail-freight is no longer able to satisfy freight demand (levels of service/costs) so more road transport being used. Meeting rail freight infrastructure is a State Gov responsibility so we have an advocacy role here to improve. The Peak Oil Strategy needs to be aligned with the Freight and Land Use Strategy. Freight and land Strategy - This includes some costings.	Staff 19 Staff 7&8	Amended Noted Noted
	Funding opportunities	The Investment Attraction team have revised this action and is comfortable with its inclusion in the action plan.	Staff 13	Noted
	Goulburn Valley Freight and Logistics Centre (GV Link)	The Investment Attraction team have revised this action and is comfortable with its inclusion in the action plan.	Staff 13	Noted
	Home grown food	Work with schools and give them plants so they can take them home to plant. This would be aiming to get parents to grow veggies at home. (organise this in spring time)	Staff 21	Noted

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Action Plan Section	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Sustainable development, planning and transport	Urban development	I would also like to see some stronger wording around energy efficient developments for both Council and residents. I would support council implementing stricter controls on development standards. The recent heatwaves have shown how important development design is. It is also about health.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Some examples of the need for improvement in this regard are the growing footprint of the municipalities urban centres and the recent development of Benalla Road. The development of energy and resource dependant estates that have very low densities of residents for the amount of space they take up is clearly unsustainable. Try accessing shops along Benalla Road without a car and it will become clear that the ongoing energy requirements to access these shops is clearly unsustainable.	Community submission 4	Noted
		All developers of land should plan for bike paths. In an ideal world, all children should be able to safely walk or ride to school.	Community submission 5	Noted
		What about more stringent planning for housing estates and developers – all estates should have green corridors and bike paths	Community submission 5	Noted
		The planning Scheme should prevent any increase in the footprint of development	Community submission 9	Sits within the scope of the Rural Land Use Strategy, the Housing Strategy and the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.
		The footprint of development in the COGS needs to be restricted into the future. Higher density living in the CBD and other older areas close to existing infrastructure needs to be encouraged with planning amendments. Recent evidence indicates that the size of new homes decreased last year for the first time in twenty years. Policy is required to further build on this trend, reduce the size and increase the efficiency of all housing - both existing and new.	GVEG	
DESS Ref	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
Council Governance and operations	Advisory committee	Advisory committee - very good opportunities for sharing ideas – just as important for others to give information on what they do as what we are doing.	GB LGBRG	Noted
		I also feel a need to include all stakeholders several times per year to informally review how the broad policy implementation is going – we are all stakeholders and need to support each other in our efforts. Council leadership should set this in motion. Most partners ie CMA, parks Vic etc. Have their own agenda but need to accept that all environmental agencies should communicate and assist the broad policy implementation.	Community submission 1	Noted

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DESS Ref	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
<b>Council Governance and operations</b>	Advisory committee	GB CMA appreciate that we were able to participate in the development of the Draft Strategy through the involvement of our representative on the Strategy Stakeholder Reference Committee. We look forward to continuing our good working relationship with Council to support the implementation of the ESS. Synergies in both the ESS and RCS will enable us to work together to achieve the outcomes of both the ESS and RCS.	GB CMA	Noted
		The Goulburn Broken CMA supports action 6.8.1; "the formation of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy Advisory Committee" and we would hope that we would have a representative on this committee, as we did for the Stakeholder Reference Committee, to continue to support Council in the implementation of the Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Strategy.	GB CMA	Noted
		GVEG supports and would like to be involved in a Greater Shepparton Environmental Sustainability Stakeholder Advisory Committee.	GVEG	Noted
		Perhaps could be something regarding maintaining/improving traffic flow (in conjunction with VicRoads?) to limit emissions etc and/or highlight cooperation with all agencies (us, DEPI, CMAs etc) that would also be beneficial on the Native Veg and pest/weed control side?	VicRoads	Noted
	Communication	Need to make sure that our material is accessible to CALD/ multicultural community – important to remember – factsheets, signs – translate etc.	Staff 6	Noted
	Compliance & Enforcement	There is a need to get Planning, Building, Local laws, Env. Health, S&E all together and discuss who is responsible but also who has the greatest potential to maximise positive outcomes. Which legislation/act fits best? How can we all work together to maximise the chances of ending up with the best outcome/finding the most effective solutions? Action – to establish clearly defined boundaries. The fines often do not add up - \$200 but it costs \$2k to clean up etc.	Council staff 2	Amended
		Water quality - Building sites – building services are out and about looking at things – can they check on these things too?	Staff 4	Noted
	Culture	Key Directions – Including organisation culture is very good/very important. Not just training for S&E staff – whole of organisation.	GB LGBRG	Noted, Action 6.3.1
	Datashare agreements	Likewise, the Goulburn Broken CMA would be happy to assist with action 6.8.2 "work with stakeholders to improve the quality of environmental data for the CoGS Some GIS data information sharing targets could be quite useful for GVW	GB CMA GVW	Noted Noted

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DESS Ref	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
<b>Council Governance and operations</b>	Decision making	The strategy makes the point that the city of Greater Shepparton has been cleared more than most parts of Victoria, resulting in a very fragmented, stressed environment. This effectively means that if a balance between economic, social and environment needs is to be achieved then things have to be skewed towards environmental considerations until such time as there is a more even distribution of resource use and conservation. This means council must work especially hard to ensure long term environmental resilience. This will mean making decisions that many will not like and it will mean council must commit more resources to educating residents and visitors about the ecological needs of the floodplain and associated waterways.	Community submission 4	Noted
		The word sustainability is an overused and abused term that probably turns some councillors off but all council activities need to be mindful of resource use, regardless of the resource.	Community submission 4	Noted
		It is hoped that this environmental sustainability strategy will also guide future decision makers as they deal with waste management, transport, development and social issues.	GMLN	Noted
		GVEG supports ensuring environmental sustainability implications are considered in project planning and decision-making activities of Council. This is an essential aspect in all business management, but more critical than ever for local government and sustainable long term planning.	GVEG	Noted
	Procurement	Change property and procurement to just Procurement. Procurement now sits under corporate performance.	Staff 12	Amended
	Project management	IPM not prince 2 anymore/ Interplan	Staff 11	Amended
	Reporting	The idea of reporting against these actions is a great one, but I would also like to see some way of residents being able to see why actions were not achieved. Let the staff who hold back the actions through budgets, differing priorities etc be accountable to the community.	Community submission 17	Noted
		Need to develop reporting system - High level	Community submission 9	Reporting will utilise Council's existing reporting system.
Resources	Policy implementation via "actions" need resources – staff and financial – to make it happen. A basic allocation backed up by vigorous grant application seems needed.	Community submission 1	Noted	
	Given the amount of work it will take to work through these actions, I think the most important actions of the entire document are to provide the Sustainability and	Community submission 17	Noted	

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DESS Ref	Keyword /Topic	Comment	Who commented?	Potential action/outcome
		Environment Department with additional resources (staff and funding), otherwise most of these actions will not be realised.		
<b>Council Governance and operations</b>	Sustainability	Sustainability is recognised across the organisation as a priority.	Staff 6	Noted

### Acronyms

**Birdlife MG** - Birdlife Murray Goulburn (Regional)

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

**CPAC** - Cussen Park Advisory Committee (Local)

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

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

**DIICCSRTE** – 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)

**GVEG** – Goulburn Valley Environment Group (Regional)

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

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

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**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 (Regional)

**VicRoads** - State

**UoM** - The University of Melbourne

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

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

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