

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group

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Dear Professor Newman

STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group is a local community organisation promoting conservation and sustainability. We support the State Government's commitment to develop a State Sustainability Strategy and offer the following comments on the consultation paper.

Local context

Quinns Rocks is located on the northern edge of Perth's urban footprint. The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group was formed in June 1985 by local residents concerned about the environment and threats posed by development proposals. The town was then a small settlement on the coast surrounded by bushland. It is now part of a growing urban area where the bush is fast disappearing.

The local experience says much about sustainability, or unsustainability. Large swathes of bushland habitat have been cleared for housing estates and more is earmarked for future low density residential development. Many people have moved here because land is relatively cheap but job opportunities and services are limited, and the car is the primary means of transport and car dependence is built into urban design. The local community has protested against landfill waste disposal at Mindarie, urban sprawl affecting bushland and encroachments on Neerabup National *Park*, but decision-makers have taken little notice. Much of what we have raised concerns over was planned long ago without public involvement or much thought to environmental or social implications.

Despite this there is interest in the community to look after the environment and make the area a better place to live. People join in community projects where they can, though longer working hours or family responsibilities affects participation. We have many ideas for a more sustainable future but finding ways to make them happen remains the challenge.

Sustainability strategy

Sustainability needs to become the guiding philosophy for decision making in government, business and the community. The State Government's aim of a strategy to move Western Australia towards sustainability is strongly supported.

The definition of sustainability used in the consultation paper is limited and we prefer the more commonly used ones in the Our Common Future report and the Australian National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development as they state the goal we need to be working toward.

Living within ecological limits needs to be a key factor in promoting sustainability. Too often the 'environment' is treated as just one issue to be balanced against others in policy setting and decision-making. When we look at global warming, resource consumption, biodiversity loss and land degradation, for example, it is clear that the way Western Australians live at present is not sustainable. If sustainability means anything then it is important we find ways to live that protect and maintain the natural capital that supports us.

In promoting sustainability it will be important to broaden understanding of the concept and its implications. A process of community awareness raising and dialogue is critical if sustainability is to be a widely held goal. Community initiatives to promote discussion about and action towards sustainability should be supported. The State Government must walk the talk by changing what it does too. A whole of government approach is needed for us to make progress towards sustainability. Sustainability indicators should be developed to provide a measure of progress; this should be done with community input and regular monitoring and reporting should occur.

Action for change

There are many actions that we could suggest the government take or support. The enclosed submission we made to the City of Wanneroo some years ago suggests several strategies regarding urban planning and development remnant bushland, coastal management, waste management and community involvement. These remain relevant and most are relevant to State Government agencies.

Some further actions that could be taken by the State Government to promote sustainability in the local area include:

- Reserve bushland north of Burns Beach Road to retain significant bushland and landscapes for conservation and provide a large open space break in the North West Corridor (development proposal affecting this area are presently before the Environment Minister).

- Review road and infrastructure proposals and management issues affecting Neerabup National Park and act to expand and protect the park to provide a larger, intact conservation reserve linking with other bushland remnants.
- Work with the City of Wanneroo, landowners and local community to develop a Greening Plan for the area. This should identify remnant vegetation and ways it can be retained, managed and linked together including regional and local conservation reserves, bushland on public and private land, local plants in home gardens and street scaping and re-establishing habitat corridors.
- Modify the Liveable Neighbourhoods community design code to take account of biodiversity and landscape issues and apply it to proposed urban development in the North West Corridor. This should mean local bushland areas are identified and retained. The code should also ensure that street design and location of land uses reduces car dependence and provides a range of job opportunities, shops and community services.
- Rethink broadscale *urban* development up the North West Corridor. The 1987 review of regional planning in Perth recommended the corridor be truncated in the vicinity of Alkimos. Concern over Perth's expanding urban footprint should lead to a more compact urban form; continuing wall to wall suburbs, and all the infrastructure that goes with it, to Two Rocks is hardly sustainable.
- Provide effective support for local community initiatives to promote sustainability. There are many social and environmental issues that would benefit from greater community involvement, and this involvement could give meaning to sustainability. As an urban fringe location this would be a useful demonstration site for sustainability projects; a local community facilitator could be employed to help *make them* happen.
- Develop a comprehensive waste management strategy for the region to reduce waste going to the Tamala Park/Mindarie landfill. Community involvement in waste reduction and recycling should be actively promoted and environmentally sound, appropriately scaled waste treatment technologies put in place. This needs to be linked to a statewide effort to cut waste through cleaner production, reduced resource consumption and development of reuse and recycling systems and markets.
- Active promote and provide incentives for use of water and energy efficient design and technologies in new urban development. Building codes should require greater energy efficiency in houses and commercial and civic buildings. Use of solar hot water systems should be supported, put some incentive to overcome the high upfront cost is needed. Water efficient appliances, appropriate greywater recycling, home water harvesting and waterwise gardens should be promoted. Display homes in the local area could be used to demonstrate these ideas.
- Develop an employment strategy for the area, with the City of Wanneroo and local community. The strategy should seek much greater local employment and promote greener, smarter enterprise that reinforces rather than erodes environmental quality and social equity.

Waste recycling, wastewater reuse, organic agriculture, nature based tourism, education services and knowledge based businesses should be considered along with teleworking or telecottages.

- Support community forums to discuss sustainability issues. By bringing together various interests in an area there is opportunity for an exchange of views, building commitment to sustainability and partnerships for action on local issues. A facilitator is needed to start the process.

To progress the sustainability agenda the State Government should look at ways to engage the community, take a whole of government approach, develop partnerships and provide sustainability reporting and assessment. The Conservation Council of WA and others have offered recommendations for action to this end; this should be considered in developing the State Sustainability Strategy. It is important that stated commitment to sustainability is translated into real changes. we hope to see and participate in this change.

Yours sincerely,

David Wake

for Quinns Rocks Environmental Group Inc

Quinns Rocks Environmental Group
submission for a
City of Wanneroo Local Conservation Strategy

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group supports a Local Conservation Strategy for the City of Wanneroo. These comments draw on our discussion of the strategy and local experience of environmental issues. This submission is made as a contribution towards the strategy.

The group

The Quinns Rocks Environmental Group is a local group concerned with conservation and community. We formed in June 1985 when the proposed Mindarie Keys development and Mindarie rubbish tip threatened the local environment. Over the ten years since, the group has promoted conservation and understanding of the environment.

We have lobbied to protect bushland and stop inappropriate environment and brought environmental issues to public attention. Community awareness has been promoted through walks, educational workshops, displays and publications. Documenting the local environment has involved flora surveys and making a photographic record of the area. The group has joined with others in environmental action and is affiliated with the WA Conservation Council.

Local environment

Quinns Rocks is situated on the coast about 35 km north-west of Perth, 12 km from Joondalup, on the western fringe of the Swan Coastal Plain. High dunes occur along much of the coastline, including parabolic dunes which sweep inland south of Mindarie Keys and north of Quinns Rocks. Limestone cliffs meet the sea at Burns Beach and south of Quinns Rocks. East of the coastal dunes and cliffs the land is gently undulating, with some limestone ridges.

Vegetation on the sand dunes and limestone ridges includes heathlands of Honey Myrtle and Wattle. Parrotbush is often dominant on the shallow soils over limestone on deeper yellow soils occur Banksia woodlands, with some Jarrah and Pricklybark. A belt of Tuart woodland occurs in Clarkson. Near Wanneroo Road, in Neerabup National Park, are Tuart, Jarrah and Marri woodlands.

Quinns Rocks was used as a holiday spot from the 1930s. The area was in a pastoral property and was partly grazed. Same limestone quarrying and limemaking was undertaken from the 1940s. Shacks were developed near the beachfront and in the late 1950s some land was subdivided. Further development took place in 1964 and 1972, and two years later the townsite of Quinns Rocks was gazetted. (Unpublished information from City of Wanneroo)

The coastal location and rural setting of the town led many people to settle in what was a quiet and isolated place by the sea. Much has changed over the past seven years with rapid urban growth extending along the North-west corridor. The local population has increased from 350 in 1970 to 1,900 in 1985 to over 11,000 today (City of Wanneroo 1995).

Extensive urban development commenced around Quinns Rocks in late 1987. Large areas of coastal bushland have been cleared for residential subdivision. Clearing and earthworking has destroyed much habitat and altered the local landscape. There is a contrast between the Quinns townsite, built on the high dunes giving it a special character, and the new suburbs to the east and south, where the ground has been levelled flat.

Further urban development is planned for the area, and will mean further change to the local environment. Bushland remains through much of the area. Planning and development can either retain and use natural elements to promote a sense of place and community, or continue destructive suburban sprawl which lacks identity.

Conservation strategy

We support a strategy to protect Wanneroo's environment. It is imperative that a fast-growing city, whose population is expected to double over the next 20 to 30 years, should adopt a conservation strategy that protects its natural heritage and promotes sustainability.

Wanneroo has many important natural resources that need to be protected and managed, with community involvement. Changes associated with urbanisation will put increasing pressure on the environment and our quality of life. The aims of the strategy should include:

- retain and manage bushland and wetlands and protect wildlife inhabiting them
- protect the coastal zone including the marine environment
- establish a network of conservation reserves, including System 6 areas
- protect the Gnangara groundwater mound and conserve water resources
- reduce, reuse and recycle waste, instead of landfilling
- minimise Greenhouse gas emissions and conserve energy.

The local conservation strategy needs to recognise and act on environmental issues, and change the way decisions are made so that sustainability is a priority. Community involvement in decisions affecting the environment and conservation actions is vital. This should be promoted in the strategy.

Environmental issues and strategies

Comments are made here on some of the key environmental issues which should be taken up in the local conservation strategy. For each concerns are raised and strategies suggested.

Urban planning and development

In the North-west corridor, rapid urban sprawl has contributed to environmental problems. It has destroyed large areas of bushland and meant loss of biodiversity. Urban zoning and development has mostly happened without environmental assessment. Low density development where people are dependant on private car use to get around means unsustainable use of energy and air pollution *from* car emissions.

Current development practises involve radical change to natural topography. Developers claim council engineering standards require massive earthworking in residential subdivisions. This creates dust problems and erosion of soil. Cleared material is commonly burnt, generating greenhouse gas, creating a smoke problem for neighbouring residents.

We need to plan for sustainability and discuss limits to Perth's growth. Community groups and residents should be consulted on planning proposals. Alternatives to low density suburban development need to be studied and promoted (see for example Calthorpe 1993, Newman and Mouritz 1991). There needs to be greater emphasis on urban consolidation; increasing residential densities and limiting urban spread. Planning should incorporate village-style urban development, linked to public transport.

Better planning of urban areas is needed. Alkimos in particular could be developed as a model regional centre, 'a green city'. Development plans could incorporate mixed land uses, higher densities, energy efficient design including solar design of buildings, alternative wastewater treatment systems such as composting toilets and greywater recycling, and rainwater collection. Bushland greenbelts could surround urban villages and link reserves. Existing topography should be used to promote a local sense of place and remnant bushland kept in open space. Design should encourage cycle and pedestrian movement and use of public transport.

Extension of the railway line is supported, but not the Mitchell Freeway. Group housing and commercial development around train stations should be encouraged to reduce car dependence. Smaller local shopping centres should be encouraged, rather than large complexes which people have to drive to.

Environmental assessment of urban development proposals is needed. Bushland should be set aside in conservation reserves and local open space. Clearing should be minimised and the natural topography retained and used to create more distinctive suburbs. Burning of cleared material should be banned, wood could be provided for firewood or woodwork and other material should be chipped or mulched.

A change in direction is needed to retain or promote a sense of place and preserve the natural environment in our communities. Current patterns of development are unsustainable. Planning currently neglects or fails to consider environmental concerns, is not integrated and does not involve the public. Greener development is needed in new and established urban areas.

Strategies for greener urban development:

- consult the community about planning and development proposals
- require environmental assessment of rezoning and development proposals, to evaluate their environmental impact and sustainability
- prepare guidelines, with community input, for greener urban development
- ensure subdivision proposals identify and retain significant bushland areas, make this a requirement for subdivision and structure plans
- review engineering standards to minimise earthworking and so retain natural topography
- ban burning of cleared material, require chipping, mulching or firewood collecting
- plan subdivisions to promote pedestrian and *cyclist* movement, this should get just as much attention in planning as roads
- keep public accessways open, find alternatives to closing accessways to deal with problems affecting neighbouring residents
- promote higher residential densities and group housing, especially near train stations, community facilities and shops
- use indigenous plants in landscaping of road verges and parks
- require developers to prepare a landscape management plan for subdivision works which should address water use, ongoing maintenance costs and environmental benefits
- develop model suburbs, in conjunction with community groups, government agencies and developers, to demonstrate green design principles
- review development charges to discourage low density urban fringe development including contributions by developers for roads and community facilities
- use integrated local area planning including a holistic assessment of environmental and social issues, community input and setting a local vision
- discuss population growth and urban sprawl, raise concerns with state and federal government.

Remnant bushland

In urban areas local bushland is the last link we have with the natural environment. The preservation of these bushland remnants is vital to sustain the indigenous flora and fauna, to maintain a sense of place and provide for connection with and enjoyment of the natural world.

Hundreds of hectares of bushland have *and are* being bulldozed for residential subdivision. For most of it, no flora or fauna survey or environmental assessment was done. This means there is no attempt to evaluate the significance of the bushland, to identify areas which should be

retained or to assess the impact of development. At Quinns Rocks large scale scorched-earth clearing of bushland for residential subdivision is occurring. Coastal heathlands, Banksia woodlands and Tuart woodlands are being lost.

If public concern for urban bushland and the need to protect biological diversity is taken seriously then this situation cannot continue. Better planning is needed including environmental assessment as part of strategic and development planning. Land clearing should be subject to control; the extent of clearing in urban subdivisions and rural areas should be minimised. Use of local flora in landscaping, street planting and by local residents should be encouraged. Landscape management for conservation is discussed by Blackwell (1987) and Major and Recher (1994)

Recognition of the value *of* bushland is needed (see Keighery and Gray 1993). Increasingly people value bushland for conservation, as natural open space and for recreation. We need both large areas of bushland with conservation priority and local bushland for conservation and passive recreation.

An expanded and linked system of conservation reserves in Wanneroo is needed to protect key biological resources, maintain natural features and provide open space. The recommendations of the System 6 report must be implemented including extensions to Yanchep National Park, additions to Neerabup National Park and the coastal strip. A major conservation reserve should be established at Wilbinga, immediately north of the city of Wanneroo, to protect the Quindalup dune landscape and land north of Burns Beach reserved to protect coastal bushland.

Bushland areas should be set aside in subdivision planning. The design and management of local reserves should protect remnant bushland. Grassed areas for sporting activities are needed but the community also needs local natural open space for passive recreation. Management plans should be developed with the community, to address walktrails, fencing, feral animals, weed control, bush regeneration, reducing fire risk and public involvement in management. Management should promote natural regeneration of the bushland. Professional bush regenerators should be employed and volunteers involved in looking after bushland areas.

Council's Greenplan should be reviewed, with public consultation. Community groups should be encouraged to help look after bushland in their local area. Greenplan should emphasise bush regeneration and the preparation and implementation of management plans for bushland reserves. Initiatives could include flora and fauna surveys, setting up seedbanks and local indigenous plant nurseries by community groups, rehabilitating degraded areas, formulating fire management strategies, control of weeds and feral animals and bush regeneration training. Only indigenous species should be used in reserve plantings.

Strategies to retain and manage remnant bushland:

- map and prepare an inventory of bushland on public and private land, regularly update the map
- introduce incentives for protection of remnant vegetation on private land, such as rate rebates for conservation covenants

- introduce controls on land clearing in urban and rural areas, discourage clearing and subject clearing applications to careful assessment
- require environmental assessment of development proposals, including survey of remnant bushland and delineation of significant areas for protection
- support implementation of conservation proposals including System 6 recommendations and address threats to these areas including development proposals
- identify and protect significant bushland including corridors linking reserves
- establish a fund for acquisition of bushland, investigate the Brisbane City Council scheme
- protect remnant bushland in public open space, acknowledge its recreation and amenity value
- review Greenplan with public consultation, put emphasis on regenerating and managing bushland in open space with community groups
- engage bush regenerators to help manage local bushland reserves together with community volunteers
- support community initiatives to manage, study and raise awareness of bushland
- use local plants in landscaping and street planting and encourage developers and residents to do the same
- promote awareness of environmental weeds and act to control them
- implement alternatives to prescribed burning, to protect bushland and reduce fire hazard.

Coastal environment

Residential development has involved clearing of coastal bushland with remaining foreshore reserves subject to recreational pressure. The coastal reserve is in many areas a narrow strip. The reserve should be wide enough to allow for conservation, recreation and erosion protection. Delineation of the foreshore reserve should include consideration of conservation values and ecological functions. In areas yet to be developed the adequacy of the reserve should be reviewed.

The vegetation and landforms of the Quindalup dune system are poorly represented in conservation reserves. These coastal habitats and landscape features are being lost to urban development. They should be preserved for future generations to enjoy, there is scope to achieve this by reserving areas of ecological, scientific and landscape value. This should include the Mindarie Dunes, north of Bums Beach.

The impact of marina, resort developments and golf courses needs to be addressed. The number of these developments should be limited because of the effect on nearshore habitat, sediment transport water quality and the coastal landscape. The environmental capability of proposed locations should be assessed. Low impact recreation and ecotourism should be encouraged. Recreational facilities should be located in discrete nodes in appropriate locations; the oasis concept proposed by Hames Sharley (1992).

Ocean disposal of wastewater could threaten our marine environment including seagrass meadows. Alternatives such as recycling wastewater, tertiary treatment and composting toilets need to be implemented.

Ongoing monitoring of the quality of coastal waters should be undertaken. This could be a cooperative effort involving the CSIRO, Fisheries Department and professional and amateur fishers. The status of commercial and recreational fisheries and the effect of urbanisation on them, e.g. increased fishing pressure, should also be checked.

Important is information about the coastal zone. A regional coastal study could be undertaken to map vegetation, landforms, etc, to identify existing and potential environmental problems and note significant areas for protection and to define management and planning guidelines. Community input to coastal planning decisions and involvement in management should be facilitated.

Management plans should be developed, implemented and reviewed for coastal areas. They should have a good information base and involve public input. Issues that should be addressed in coastal management plans include protection of remnant vegetation, use of indigenous flora, managing public access and recreational use and rehabilitation of degraded areas.

Some coastal rehabilitation and stabilisation efforts have been misguided. Non-local plants have been used, rock groynes have caused erosion and inappropriately placed fences and paths have been washed away. Management should be sympathetic to coastal processes. This should include use of local species and 'soft engineering'. Structures should not be built or retained in erosion-prone areas.

Guidelines for coastal planning and management are provided by Graham (1993).

Strategies to protect the coastal zone;

- review the adequacy of the foreshore reserve to provide for conservation, recreation and erosion protection; increase the width of the reserve where possible
- establish conservation reserves to protect coastal landforms and vegetation, including the Mindarie Dunes and Wilbinga
- limit the development of marinas and resorts along the coastline, apply development conditions to protect remnant vegetation, coastal processes and nearshore habitats
- promote low-impact recreation and ecotourism; discourage activities that degrade coastal environments e.g. sandboarding, off-road vehicles
- locate coastal recreational facilities in discrete nodes at appropriate locations
- promote alternatives to ocean disposal of wastewater, including wastewater recycling and composting toilets; support development and demonstration of wastewater reuse systems e.g. domestic greywater use, irrigation of grassed open space
- seek ongoing monitoring of the quality of coastal waters, nearshore marine ecosystems and fisheries
- initiate a study to document and map coastal resources, identify management problems and conservation opportunities

- support community involvement in monitoring and managing coastal resources, e.g. coastcare initiatives, and in decision making affecting the coast, e.g. consultation about development proposals
- prepare, implement and review coastal management plans, including strategies to protect coastal vegetation and manage public access and use
- develop coastal rehabilitation guidelines including use of locally indigenous plants and soft engineering' methods.

Waste management

The amount of waste produced and requiring disposal should be minimised. As a society we consume a large proportion of the world's resources, including wood, paper, metal, plastics, glass and organics, much of which is used once then disposed of. Most of our solid waste is landfilled; wasting materials, posing a threat to groundwater and adding to Greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposal for the Mindarie rubbish tip was fought by the local community *for* eleven years. Protests against the unlined landfill dump and calls for alternatives were ignored. Our opposition to the Mindarie Tip remains; landfilling is unacceptable and alternative waste management practises must be implemented.

Priority should be given to minimising waste and reuse, recycling and composting. Cleaner production should be promoted in local industries. Manufacturers must carry some responsibility for the 'end use' of the products they make. Packaging should be reduced and disposable products replaced by durable and reusable or recyclable items. Pay-by-weight waste disposal should be introduced for kerbside rubbish pick-ups, providing a financial incentive for people to reduce and recycle.

Organic material makes up a large part of domestic waste, it should be composted instead of put in landfill. Home composting should be promoted and drop-off and composting of garden waste undertaken. Kerbside recycling in Wanneroo needs to be more comprehensive and better promoted if recycling goals are to be met. State and local government should encourage recycling industries to establish and introduce a container deposit system. Purchase of recycled materials should be preferred.

Awareness of householders and businesses about how to reduce waste should be promoted through an education campaign. The council could be a model in its own operations by reducing, reusing and recycling waste. Hazardous household and commercial waste like paints, pesticides and solvents should be collected separately and treated safely.

The recommendations of the City of Wanneroo Advisory Committee on Waste Management Options (1992) and the State Recycling Blueprint (1993) should be acted on.

Strategies for reducing, reusing and recycling waste:

- phase out landfill disposal of solid waste, including closure of the Mindarie rubbish tip

- encourage government and private initiatives for cleaner production and waste minimisation in industry
- introduce pay-by-weight rubbish collection, with bin weighing and regular billing, in conjunction with information on reducing and recycling waste
- run a public awareness campaign to promote waste minimisation by households and businesses
- promote home composting and continue sale of low price compost bins
- undertake composting of greenwaste; consider a garden waste drop-off I compost pick-up system
- support development of recycling industries locally
- prefer recycled, recyclable and durable products in purchasing; develop a policy to this effect
- expand and promote the kerbside recycling scheme, materials for recycling should include glass, aluminium, steel, paper, cardboard, fabrics and HDPE and PET plastics
- provide for hazardous waste collection and safe treatment; raise awareness of household hazardous wastes
- make council a model by reducing, reusing and recycling; participate in demonstration projects.

Community involvement

Community involvement in discussing issues, contributing to decision-making and supporting environmental initiatives is essential. However, the way our suburbs are developed, where and how we work and the way political structures operate have diminished the sense of community and make it difficult *for* many people to shape their future. Obstacles to community involvement need to be addressed, this is important in seeking a sustainable society.

The community should have input to decisions affecting the environment. Conflict arises when people are shut out of the decision making process, don't have access to information and don't have the opportunity to discuss issues of concern and put their point of view. Change is needed in local and state government to facilitate participation in decision-making. Some councils have tried to do this, for example Fremantle and North Sydney. People also need skills and encouragement to be active citizens.

Local communities in Wanneroo should be encouraged. Workshops could be held to discuss 'how do we want local area to be like in future.' ideas could be published

to define a vision for the future. to live and what do we want the in the Wanneroo Times.

Environmental projects by schools and community groups should be supported. Practical assistance by council could include helping setting up recycling centres, establishing neighbourhood environment centres and promoting and funding conservation projects. Projects could include growing and planting local species, surveying or regenerating bushland, establishing seedbanks and local ~ant nurseries, water and energy conservation projects and educating others through leaflets or workshops.

Public comment should be sought on development proposals and environmental issues. There should be an opportunity for people to have input to planning and decision-making. Workshops can be a good forum for people to discuss planning issues, conservation projects, rezonings and management plans. Surveys, response forms, submissions-by-phone are some other ways of gaining public comment.

Strategies to promote and support community involvement:

- encourage local communities to define an environmental vision, e.g. through public workshops, comments in local newspaper
- support establishment of neighbourhood environment centres throughout Wanneroo and a regional environment centre at Joondalup
- develop a policy on community involvement and strategies to apply an open and participatory approach to council's activities
- appoint a community involvement coordinator to promote community initiatives and public involvement in decision-making
- support community environmental initiatives, continue the community environmental grants scheme and provide technical and practical support
- support community enterprises e.g. local plant nurseries
- seek public input on planning proposals and council policy and corporate plans
- involve the community in preparing and implementing reserve management plans and coastal management plans
- sponsor community development workshops for community groups and volunteers e.g. public advocacy, group facilitation, public speaking
- provide training *for* council *staff* and councillors on community consultation and participation
- promote local identity and place by encouraging good design, retention of natural elements and provision of community facilities e.g. neighbourhood drop-in centre.

Conclusion

The Local Conservation Strategy is an opportunity to protect Wanneroo's environment, particularly considering the pressures from rapid urban growth. The strategy should allow the council to have a more cohesive and integrated approach to environmental management. It should guide planning and development to promote a more sustainable community.

The strategy has involved consultation and it is important that this continues throughout the formulation and implementation of the strategy. Our strategy can be a model for other councils and will be a resource for all the people living in the City of Wanneroo.

References and suggested reading

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