

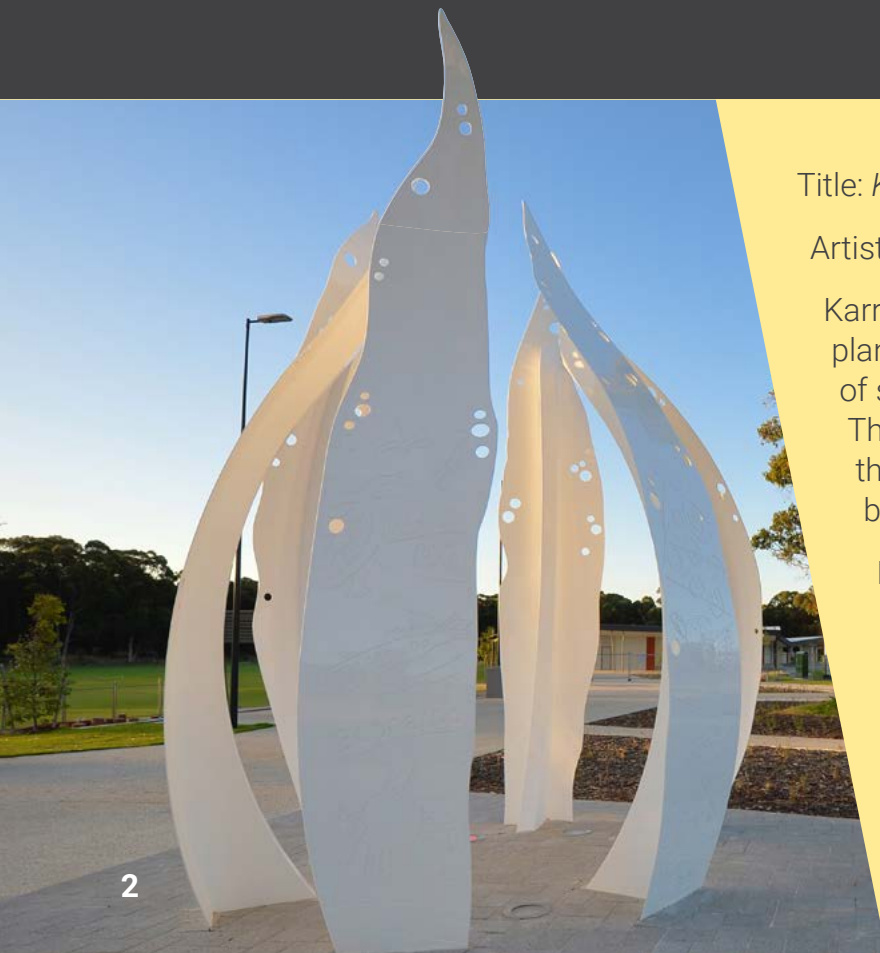
Sustainability Snapshot Report

2022



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The City of Rockingham respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land, the Binjareb and Whadjuk Nyoongar peoples and their connection to the land, waters and community. We wish to pay our respects to all Aboriginal communities and their cultures, and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Title: *Karrikins Dirdong*

Artists: Jason Hirst and Peter Farmer

Karrikins are organic compounds left when plants burn, which stimulate the germination of seeds from different plant species. This process is vital for the greening that occurs shortly after a bushfire has blackened the bush.

Located at the newly opened Baldivis Sports Complex the sculpture depicts the six Nyoongar seasons within the design. At night the piece is illuminated by inbuilt coloured lighting along the ground. The intent of the artwork is to depict connection to the land, new growth and development.

Foreword from the Mayor

The release of the Sustainability Snapshot Report provides an opportunity to capture and report on collective action undertaken across our organisation supporting a climate resilient community. Regular reporting assists in guiding the future directions of initiatives, including identifying areas for further improvement. As our population continues to grow, the City is committed to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change by progressing actions across all six key focus areas.



Mayor Deb Hamblin

Introduction

This is the City's sixth annual Sustainability Snapshot Report. Since being first released in 2017, the Sustainability Snapshot Report has provided an opportunity to showcase collective sustainability initiatives and actions across the City's many areas of responsibility. The collation of information and data through this reporting process will assist in guiding future direction around sustainability and protection of the natural environment.

From 2023, the release schedule of the Sustainability Snapshot Report will be changing to a biennial report. In non-reporting years, the City will still be releasing an information summary which will continue to keep our community up-to-date with the most recent actions and key outcomes achieved during that year. Copies of the report will still be made available to the community through a digital copy on the City's website and physical version at each of the City's libraries. The first information summary will be released towards the end of 2023 as the '**Sustainability Highlights**'. The next biennial report will look to explore actions and initiatives which have been undertaken in 2023 and 2024. This document will be published under the title '**Sustainability Snapshot Report**'.

Actions reported through this document align with the City's overarching direction outlined in the Strategic Community Plan 2019-2029. Implementation of key actions are further supported through City Community Plan Strategies, including the Sustainability Strategy.

Reporting in this Sustainability Snapshot Report is divided into six key focus areas, these include:



Water



Waste and Recycling



Energy and Emissions



Nature and Environment



Environmental Education
and Engagement



Climate Response



City of Rockingham Regional Overview

The City of Rockingham is located approximately 40 km south of Perth. With a growing population, the Local Government Area spans approximately 257 km² and is divided into 16 suburbs. Rockingham is the place 'where the coast comes to life', featuring unique cultural heritage sites and natural environments, including the Rockingham Lakes Regional Park and the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park.



Population

(ABS ERP 2021)

140,595

243,641

(2046)



Density
547.06

persons per km²



257 km²

– Land Area –

25,703

Hectares



37 km

– Coastline –



Sustainability Milestones

November 2011

Became a signatory of the WALGA Local Government Climate Change Declaration. The City's own Climate Change Declaration was also endorsed by Council.

November 2012

'Local Government Energy Efficiency Program' launched in the City. Sponsored by the Federal Government.

March 2017

City endorsed as a Waterwise Council by Water Corporation and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

June 2017

A third 'Greenwaste' bin rolled out across municipality.

December 2015

Paris Agreement: Australia committed to reduce emissions by 26-28 per cent below 2005 levels, by 2030.

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

November 2012

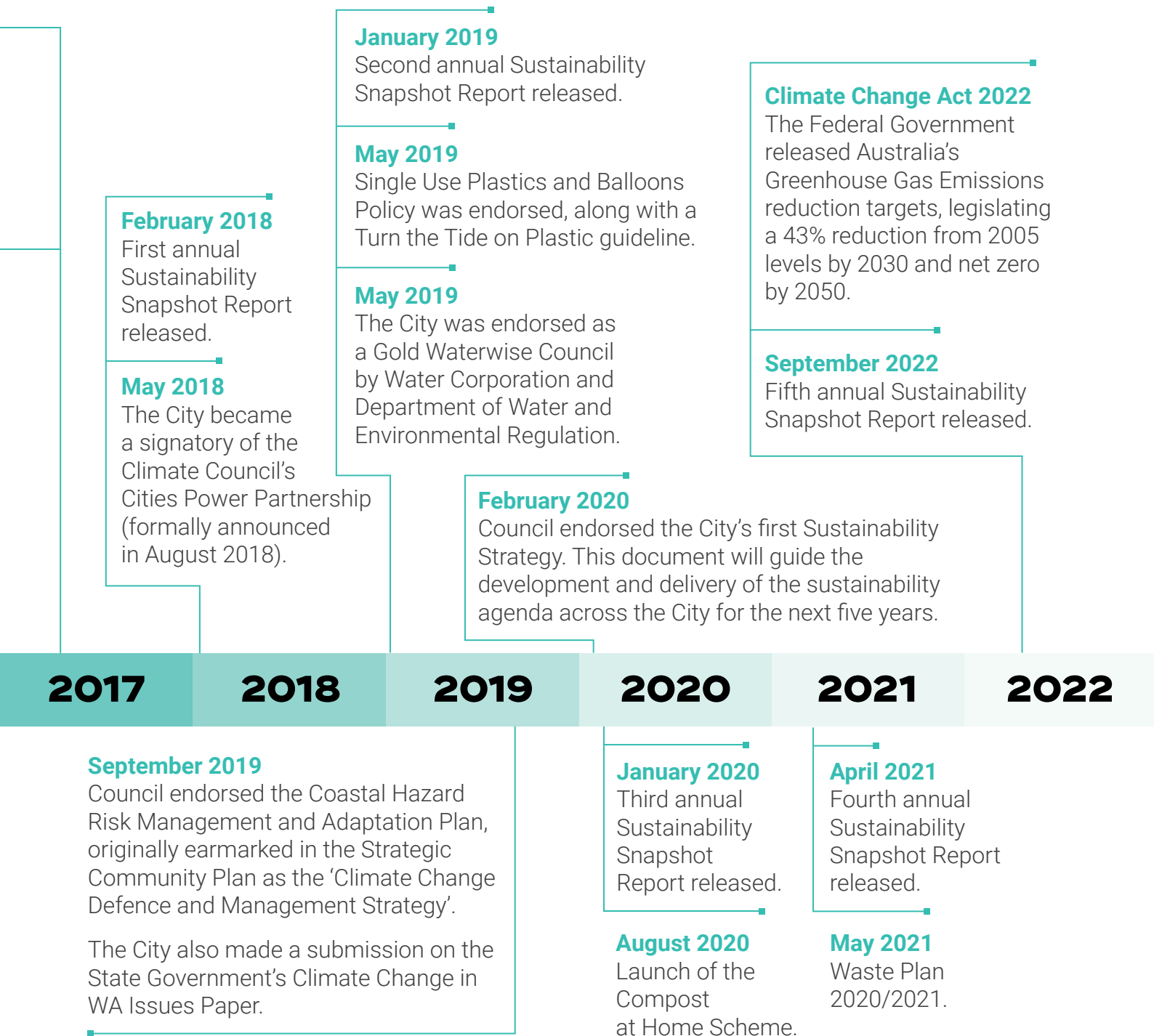
Climate Change Response Strategy - adopted by Council in November 2012.

November 2014

Strategic Community Plan 2015-2025 adopted (Climate Change Defence and Management Strategy and Climate Change Mitigation Strategy identified).

September 2003

WA State Sustainability Strategy 'Hope for the Future' released.





Water

In a hotter, drier climate, responsible water consumption is required to support biodiversity and cooling of our environment. The City maintains a large array of public amenities such as parks, sporting fields and swimming pools, and efficient management of this precious resource is critically important.

Re-endorsement as a Gold Waterwise Council in 2022 recognises the City's commitment to outstanding leadership in water efficiency and management. The City's Waterwise Council Action Plan 2021 outlines a five-year framework for key actions and targets aimed at reducing water consumption and sustainable management of both potable and non-potable water sources.



Strategic Community Plan Objectives:

3.3 Climate Change Adaptation

Acknowledge and understand the impacts of climate change, and identify actions to mitigate and adapt to those impacts.



Key City Documents:

- Planning Policy 3.4.3 Urban Water Management
- Waterwise Council Action Plan 2021







Updates and achievements

- Installation of new pipework, valves, wiring and sprinklers were completed to improve systems efficiency which is expected to increase water savings across four locations. **Irrigation systems replacements** were upgraded in 2022, as part of the City's scheduled infield irrigation renewal program, these locations included:
 - » Hourglass Reserve, Cooloongup
 - » Safety Bay Reserve, Rockingham
 - » Ashford Reserve, Rockingham.
- **Bore Dousing Program** – The City's Parks Services has implemented a dousing program to remove iron build-up from 16 bores across City reserves. Selected bores are doused twice yearly through an aeration and filtration process. This program is designed to improve performance and water supply output, resulting in better operating systems and less frequent backwashing helping to reduce water. Moving forward, the City will seek to continue this program with opportunities to automate and increase dousing over the next three years.
- In 2021/2022, a further **eight new public open space (POS) areas** were constructed using best practice water sensitive urban design principles (WSUD). These reserves assist in improving the quality of stormwater runoff through filtration and nutrient removal.



Number of public open space reserves constructed using best practice WSUD principles in the last six years:



9

2016/2017



2

2017/2018



7

2018/2019



2

2019/2020



2

2020/2021



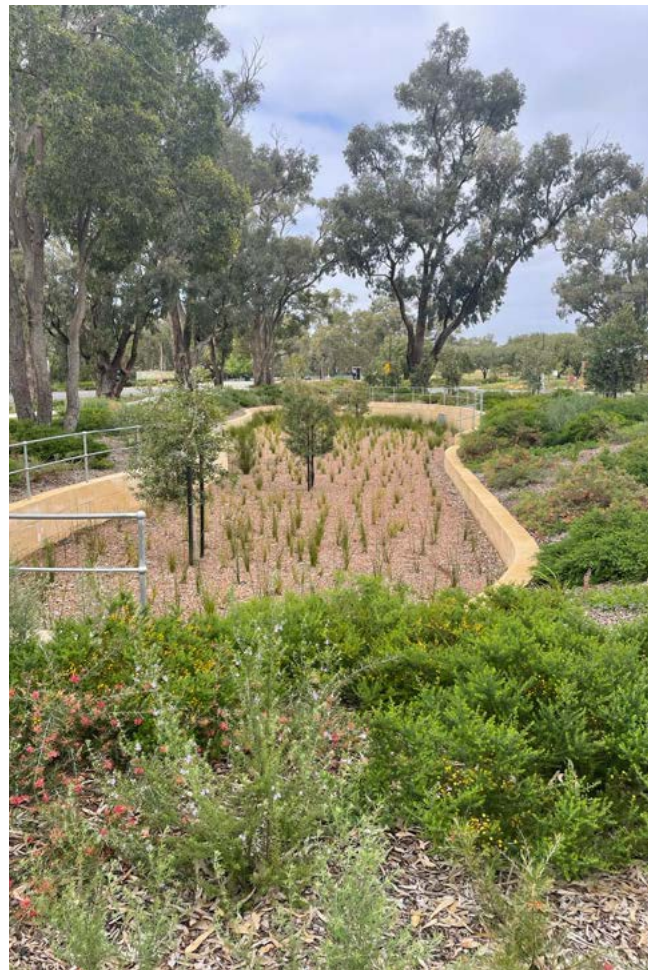
8

2021/2022

- **Gold Waterwise Council** – The City has been endorsed as a Gold Waterwise Council for the fifth consecutive year. As part of the City's ongoing commitment to the Waterwise Councils Program, our second five-year report was released in the 2021 Waterwise Council Action Plan. This document outlines key targets and actions to be undertaken over the next five years to support new and existing water reduction actions in the community and at City facilities.

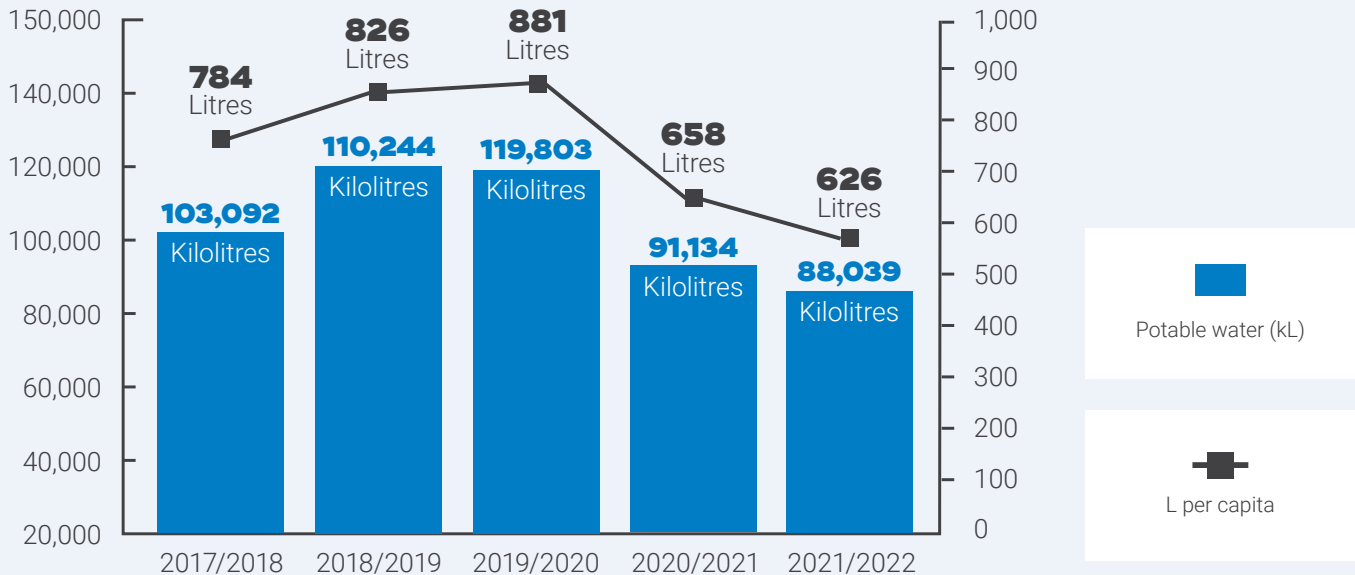


- **Biofiltration swales** are designed to reduce the discharge of nutrients and hydrocarbons from stormwater runoff into the environment. The City's review of all proposed Structure Plans involves extensive hydrological assessment to ensure appropriate management of groundwater and stormwater. **Spires Estate Public Open Space – Lot 5 Ingram Road Baldivis** (shown below) is an example of where the City has worked with the developer to construct a bio-filtration swale within a new development to support these key principles.





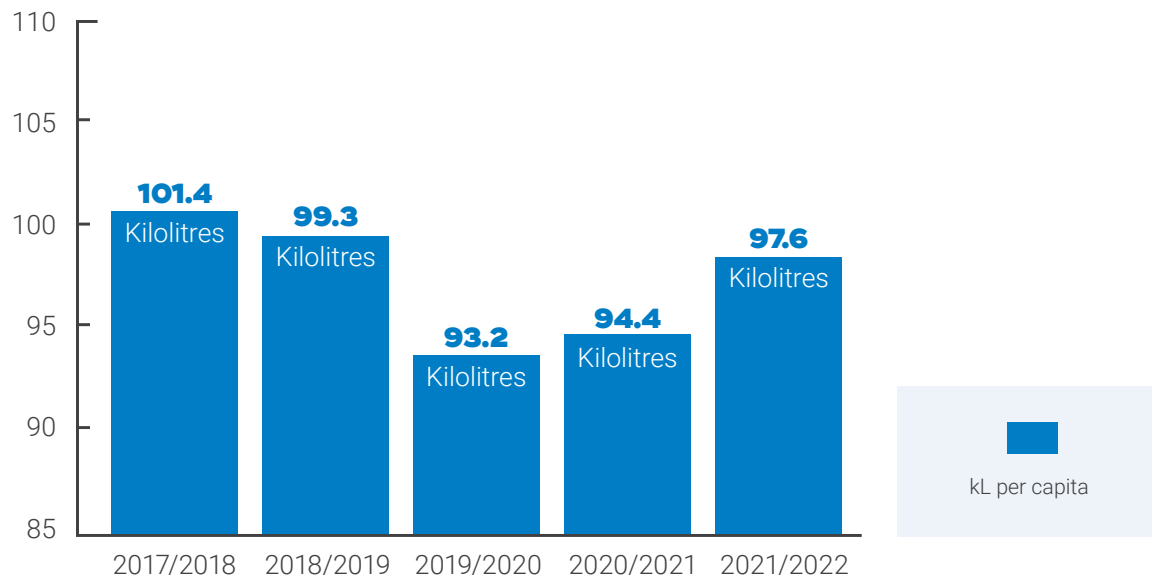
Scheme Water Consumption



- Since 2020/2021, the City has seen a decrease in overall potable water consumption across City facilities. A significant leak detected and repaired at the ablutions facility at Churchill Park can be attributed to the water savings between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Moving forward, two former City managed aged care facilities will no longer be considered as part of the City's corporate potable water consumption, likely to result in a slight decrease in the next financial year.
- The City's Aqua Jetty and Rockingham Aquatic Centre both saw reductions in overall potable water consumption in 2021/2022. A reduction in water consumption from 20,873 kL to 16,674 kL between the latest financial years can be attributed to a leak identified within the mains water supply for the Aqua Jetty's hydrotherapy pool. Being top water consuming corporate assets, our aquatic facilities are subject to ongoing targeted water consumption reductions.



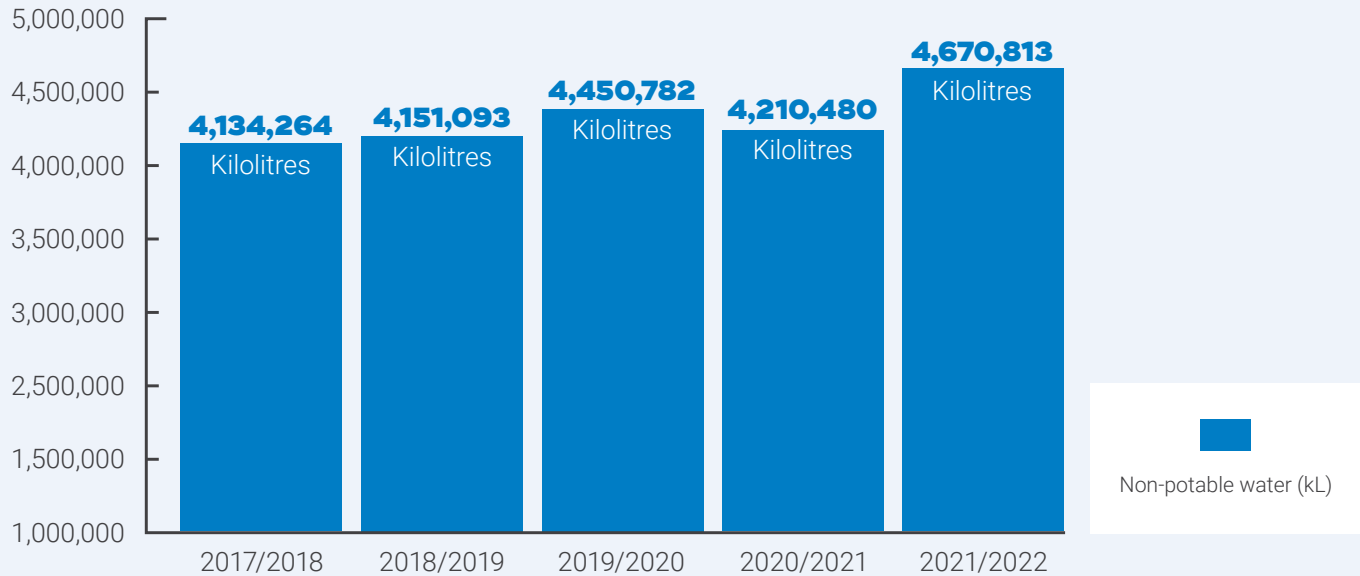
Community Water Consumption



- Community potable water consumption is inclusive of commercial, residential and educational sectors. The City's goal to reduce community water consumption by 15% by 2030 is still on track, based on a 2015 baseline, the City will continue to provide education and engage with the Rockingham community to achieve this target.



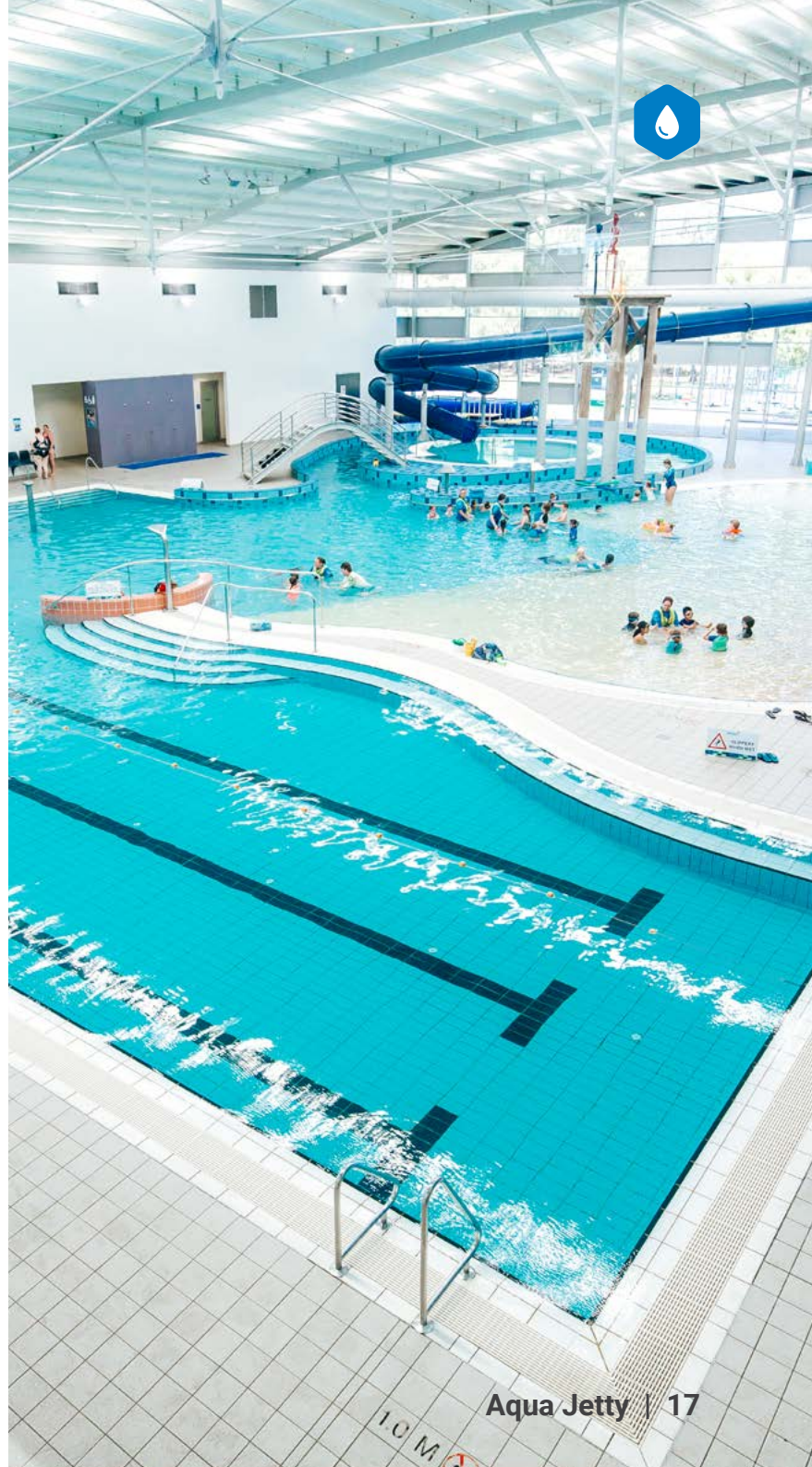
Groundwater for Irrigation



- Increases in the number of POS areas managed by the City, in addition to higher temperatures in summer 2021/2022 has resulted in an increase to the total consumption of groundwater for irrigation. Groundwater consumption is still 13.2% less than the overall allocation granted to the City for irrigation of POS reserves.
- The City's licenced abstraction limit and annual abstraction volume has continued to increase, reflecting the increased number of irrigated reserves managed by the City. Six new public open spaces were transferred to the City in the latest financial year.
- The City will continue its efforts to implement the actions identified in the Waterwise Council Action Plan to reduce groundwater usage and improve efficiency.

Focus Moving Forward

- Maintain Gold Waterwise Council re-endorsement by submitting annual progress reports on identified actions to Water Corporation.
- Continue to implement infield irrigation renewal and bore dousing programs to support more efficient consumption of groundwater across public open space areas. City Park to have irrigation replacement works progressed and are expected to be completed in 2023.
- Implement water efficiency actions outlined in the Waterwise Council Action Plan 2021.





Waste and Recycling

Waste and recycling services are a key function of Local Government and the City is committed to delivering best practice waste management solutions and community education. The City's Waste Plan 2020/2021, which focuses on the delivery of sustainable waste management, behaviour change and community engagement, supports this objective. This plan aligns with the State's 'Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030'.



Strategic Community Plan Objectives:

2.7 Services and Facilities

Provide cost effective services and facilities which meet community needs.

3.4 Sustainable Waste Solutions

Incorporate new opportunities that support responsible and sustainable disposal of waste.

4.3 Leader in Sustainability

Provide community education on the management of waste, and provide opportunities for community involvement in sustainability programs.



Key City Documents:

- Single Use Plastics and Balloons Council Policy
- Waste Plan 2020/2021





Litter capture

- **Litter Booms – Lake Richmond**

As identified within the City's Lake Richmond Management Plan endorsed in February 2020, the City has installed floating litter booms on drains entering Lake Richmond. Litter is captured and removed on a periodical basis to support the protection of our local wetlands and fauna. These booms assist with better practice litter management, in addition to routine litter collection from all drains.

Prevention of litter entering local wetlands and our oceans also occurs with the capture of litter, debris and sediment in Gross Pollutant Traps. This type of infrastructure acts as one form of pollution control located underground in urbanised areas, allowing stormwater to flow while trapping coarse sediment and litter.

- **Fishing Line Bins**

In early 2022, the City facilitated the installation of two new fishing line bins at the Val Street and Palm Beach Jetty along the Rockingham Foreshore. The yellow fishing line bins (as pictured) can also be found at Mersey Point Jetty and Bent Street Boat Ramp. The bins are part of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions 'Reel It In' program which continues to support the protection of our beaches and oceans by providing people with a place to safely dispose of fishing waste, such as fishing lines and tackle. Residents are encouraged to use these appropriately and help protect our environment and community from unwanted litter entering our waterways and harming our wildlife.



**Fishing Line Bin -
Val Street Jetty**



Plastic Free July 2022

In July 2022, the City partnered with Plastic Free July as a Council Member. Plastic Free July is an annual month long campaign aimed at raising awareness on the world's growing plastics problem by facilitating long-term behavioural change. During this month individuals, businesses and local organisations are encouraged to take action to reduce their consumption of single-use plastics. The campaign strongly aligns with the City's own *Single Use Plastics and Balloon Council Policy*.

142

**community
members**

signed up to
the Plastic Free
July Challenge



During July 2022, 142 City of Rockingham residents directly signed up to the Plastic Free July challenge. The City engaged in a number of actions and initiatives to promote plastic waste reduction to City employees and the community, including:

- Plastic free displays at each of the City's four library locations, including a 'sustainable swaps' display case in which community members could view sustainable alternatives to everyday single-use plastic items.
- A social media campaign to encourage community members to engage with Plastic Free July.
- A prize for City employees making a pledge was promoted to support the campaign.

The City will look to engage with the Plastic Free July campaign in July 2023.



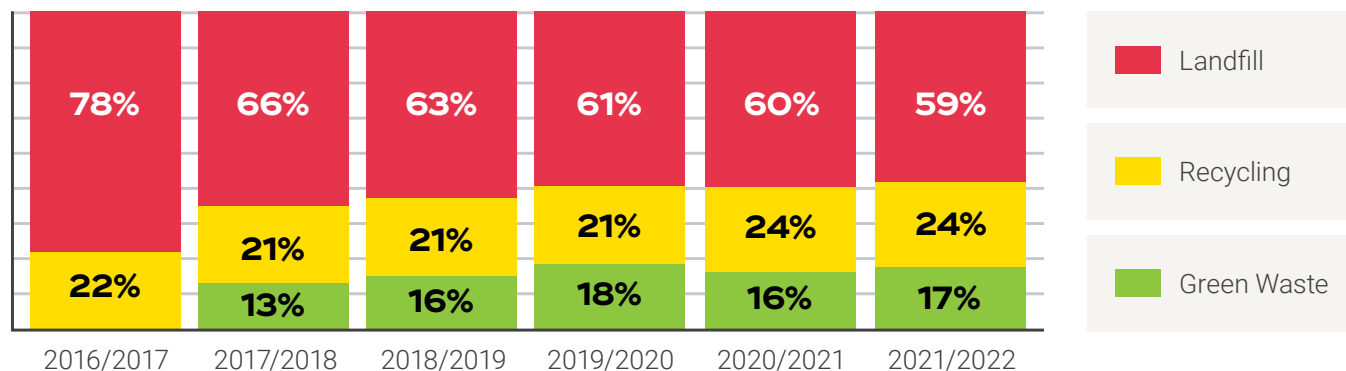


Facts and Figures

- **73,949.01 tonnes of residential waste material** was collected in 2021/2022. This includes kerbside bin collections, hard waste verge collections and residential drop off at the landfill facility.
- Since 2015/2016, waste to landfill has decreased by 30.9%. The introduction of the Garden Organics Greenwaste bin in 2017/2018 has resulted in a significant increase in waste diversion.



Residential Waste Collection



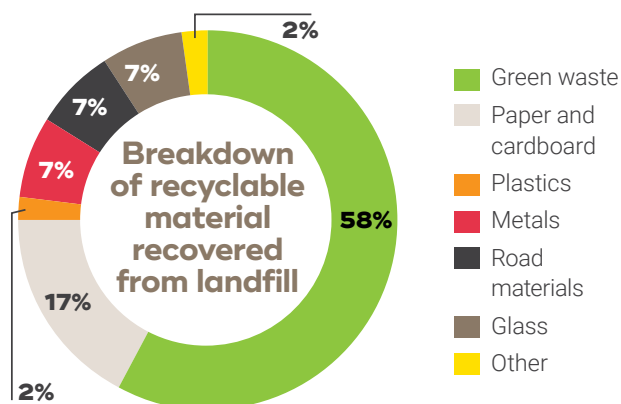
Residential Waste Collection (Tonnes)

	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
Green Waste	-	9,965	11,322	12,425	12,348	12,595.92
Recycling	17,200	16,762	14,531	14,900	17,766	17,769.47
Landfill	62,503	52,197	44,495	43,554	45,414	43,583.62
Total Waste	79,703	78,924	70,348	70,880	78,614	73,949.01

* Note: The recycling figure has been changed from the previous report to reflect a more accurate calculation of mixed recycling collected, from 20,852 tonnes to 17,766 tonnes.

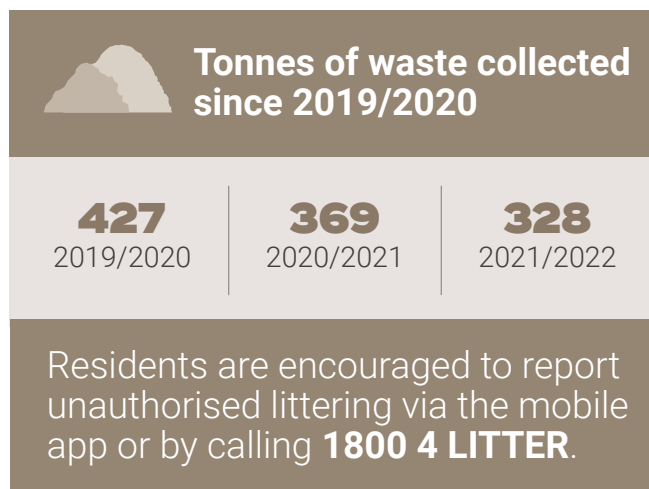


- In 2021/2022, a total of **34,932 tonnes** of additional material was diverted from landfill, in addition to kerbside recycling by the City. Key resource avenues for materials include green waste processing, material recovery facility and waste salvaged from landfill drop off. The displayed graph shows a breakdown of recyclables.



- Electronic Waste Collection** – The City's E-waste Recycling and Reuse Program, through Millar Road Landfill and Recycling Facility, has seen an increase in the amount of e-waste diverted from landfill since inception in March 2021.
 - » 2020/2021 – **9.38 Tonnes**
 - » 2021/2022 – **50.18 Tonnes**

- Litterbusters** is an integral part of the City's response to reducing litter, illegal dumping and graffiti. In 2021/2022, **2,960 reports** were responded to with **328 tonnes of litter** subsequently collected thanks to the response from Litterbusters and the community.





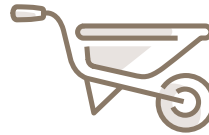
Facts and Figures

E-waste Collection Stations are located within the City's Administration Building and at each of our libraries. These stations provide the community a location to recycle household batteries, printer cartridges and mobile phones.



145 kg printer cartridges were recycled in partnership with Close the Loop.

35% increase in batteries recycled at Millar Road Landfill Facility between 2020/2021 and 2021/2022.



1,575 tonnes of construction waste was diverted from Millar Road Landfill Facility and sold for reuse in civil projects in 2021/2022.



Approximately 937 tyres were replaced across the City fleet in 2021/2022. Tyres are recycled through a Tyre Stewardship Australia (TSA) accredited provider to ensure environmentally responsible management of end of life tyres.



Recycling coffee capsules

In 2022, three full recycling boxes were collected from City employees, capturing approximately 4,500 capsules for recycling as part of this initiative.

Focus Moving Forward



- Continue to implement and report annually on actions included under the City's Waste Plan 2020/2021. Including initiatives such as the introduction of a better practice 3-bin Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) system by 2025.
- Continue to partner with Plastic Free July as a Council Member to promote the campaign message of reducing single-use plastics to the greater community.
- Deliver a second round of the City's Compost at Home Program in early 2023. This program is designed to support residents in reducing the amount of food waste going to landfill.
- Continue to keep the community informed on regulation changes, including the State's *Plan for Plastics*.
- Review of City managed Fishing Line Bins to determine viability of expanding to additional locations.
- Review the City's *Single Use Plastics and Balloon Council Policy* in 2023.





Energy and Emissions

The City is committed to identifying pathways to reduce corporate energy usage and emissions through existing and emerging alternative technologies. In 2022, the City continued to implement best practice energy efficiency projects, and look for ways to reduce and improve the City's emission profile. With a large array of facilities, services and infrastructure, the City is reviewing how it captures and collates information in a usable, practical context.



Strategic Community Plan Objectives:

3.5 Alternative Energy Applications

Embrace new technology and apply alternative energy solutions to City facilities and services.

4.3 Leadership in Sustainability

Provide community education on the management of waste, and provide opportunities for community involvement in sustainability programs.



Key City Documents:

- Tourist Destination Strategy 2019 - 2024
- Sustainability Strategy 2020
- Strategic Asset Management Plan 2021



CITY OF ROCKINGHAM
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE

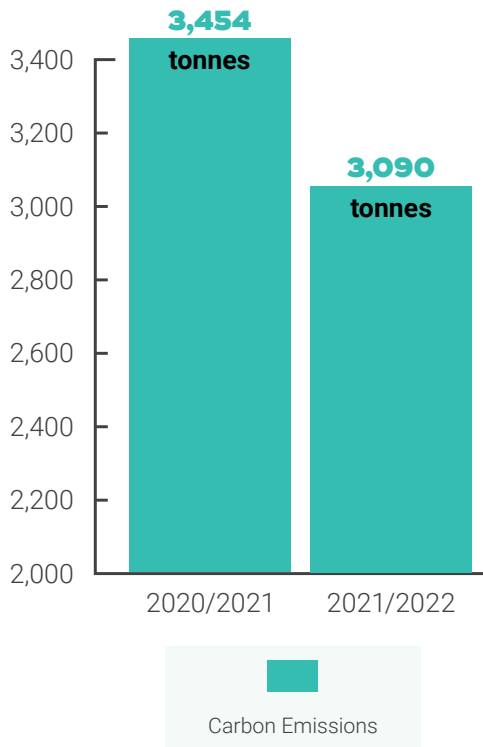


Carbon Neutral Fleet

The City's vehicle emissions are offset each year by purchasing offsets from accredited providers. These targeted offsets help to reduce the City's overall carbon footprint. This year, the Yarra Yarra Biodiversity Corridor Project was selected for fleet emissions offsets. With over 13,000 hectares of plantings, the project is the largest reforestation carbon sink in Australia. This project helps to increase wildlife habitat and connectivity, improve soil erosion and provide education opportunities for research and the community.

Seven of the City's eight SmartWatch Vehicles have transitioned to hybrid models as part of the existing replacement of corporate fleet vehicles.

Change in Offset Fleet Emissions



Electric Scooters

The City approved the roll-out of 250 hireable e-scooters over a trial period between March 2022 and May 2023. Electric scooters provide residents with an accessible, low-emissions transport alternative. The City will review the existing permit for e-scooters in early 2023.



250

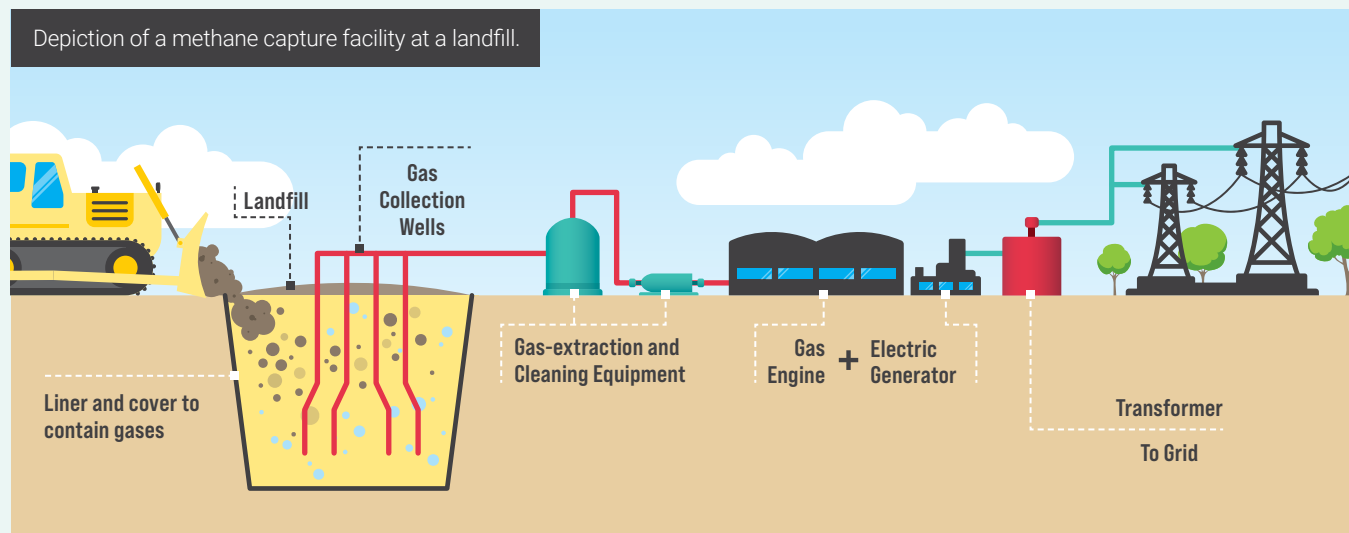
new hireable
e-scooters



Methane Harvesting

In 2021/2022, approximately **49,618 tonnes of CO₂e** (carbon dioxide equivalent) was captured from decomposing waste from landfill and transformed into electricity. Energy generated was approximately 7,610 MWh, equivalent to powering 1,396 average Western Australian homes. The capture of methane in this financial year, equated to removing 17,574 cars from our roads.

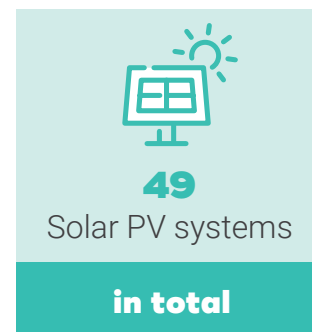
In December 2021, the City's methane plant gas generator(s) changed operators, following the commissioning repairs and upgrades to generation equipment. This has resulted in reduced methane capture compared with previous financial years. It is expected that the new operator will be able to produce a higher rate of energy capture moving forward.





Energy Efficiency Program

- **Solar PV Installation** – The City has 49 Solar PV systems installed across City facilities. This figure has reduced from the previous year following the sale of Challenger Court Aged Care Home.
» In 2021/2022 one new solar system was installed at Rockingham Golf Course.
- **LED Lighting Upgrades** – During 2021/2022, 313 lights were upgraded to LEDs over 50 locations. It is expected that these changes will result in energy savings of 35%, equalling a reduction of 501 kWh.



Power Purchase Agreement

- In 2021, the City joined the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) **Sustainable Energy Procurement Program**. This Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) will allow the City to source electricity from renewable wind farms within WA. By joining this program, the City is taking a significant step in reducing its carbon footprint and working towards a long term goal of becoming carbon negative. From December 2022, the City will start to see the benefits of this agreement through anticipated emission reductions and energy and cost savings.



2.3 km

of new bike paths
(cycling infrastructure)
installed.



- Continue to source renewable energy to supply select facilities through the WALGA Sustainable Energy Procurement Program.
- Establish a real-time energy monitoring platform to assist with reporting on corporate and community emissions. Data will be used to prepare an Energy Management Plan and Emissions Reduction Plan for targeted reductions to City emissions.
- Seven locations identified for LED conversions in the next financial year.
- Continue ongoing building renewals as required to replace older infrastructure with higher water efficiency rated fixtures outlined in the City's Internal Building Specification Guidelines.
- Review and implement practical recommendations outlined in the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Network Plan released by Perth South West – Metropolitan Alliance (formerly South West Group) in August 2022.



**Rockingham Foreshore -
Bike Maintenance Station**



Nature and Environment

Protection of the natural environment and the sustainable management of natural areas is a key community aspiration of significant importance. Rockingham has significant natural environments, home to a diverse range of flora and fauna which is managed through specific Environmental Management Plans. The revision of a number of these plans is expected to occur in the coming year, including the review and identification of new actions and expansion of existing initiatives.



Key City Documents:

- Greening Plan 2017
(to be reviewed in 2023)
- Wetland Management Plan
(to be reviewed in 2023)
- Lake Richmond Management Plan
- Foreshore Management Plan
(to be reviewed in 2023)
- Natural Area Conservation Strategy 2017
- Reserve Prioritisation Report
- Bushland Management Plan
- Tamworth Hill Swamp Management Plan
- Planning Policy 3.1.1 – Rural Land Strategy
- Public Open Space Community Plan Strategy (2020-2025)





Strategic Community Plan Objectives:

3.6 Preservation and Management of Bushland and Coastal Reserves

Encourage the sustainable management and use of the City's bushland and coastal reserves.

3.7 Liveable Suburbs

Plan for attractive sustainable suburbs that provide housing diversity, quality open spaces, walkways, amenities and facilities for the community.



Protecting Black Cockatoos

As identified within the City's Environmental Management Plans, 10 artificial nesting hollows were installed in 2021/2022 across the following locations – Tamworth Hill Swamp, Baldvis Nature Reserve, Karnup Townsite, Lake Richmond and at the Karnup Primary School site in the Vista Estate. Due to land clearing and habitat fragmentation in the South West Region of Western Australia, these artificial hollows will assist and encourage breeding and protection of this threatened bird species. The installation of these artificial nesting hollows follows on from the City installing nine 'cockatubes' in the north-western corner of the Baldvis Sporting Complex in late 2021.

Native Plants Giveaway 2022

11,000 waterwise, native seedlings (tubestock) were given out to Rockingham residents as part of the City's annual Native Plants Giveaway in May 2022. This event is designed to support the establishment of gardens which reduce water usage, support local biodiversity and help cool the local environment. The City received co-funding through the Water Corporation's Waterwise Greening Scheme to purchase seedlings for the 2022 event.



Frog Monitoring Program

Frogs are known to be good environmental indicators, and as such, were identified by the City to be monitored for the long-term effects of climate change. A baseline assessment of 15 wetlands was initially conducted in 2014 to determine the frog species assemblage within the City. Occupancy modelling was proposed as a monitoring technique to determine the status of populations of the Squelching Froglet (*Crinia insignifera*), as part of this assessment. Since then, the City has undertaken frog monitoring annually, with the most recent monitoring completed in August 2022 across 50 sites (distributed across 14 wetlands).

A total of five frog species were recorded from the sites surveyed. These were the Squelching Froglet (*C. insignifera*), Clicking Froglet (*C. glauerti*), Slender Tree Frog (*Litoria adelaidensis*), Motorbike Frog (*L. moorei*) and Western Banjo

Frog (*Limnodynastes dorsalis*). The most common species recorded was the target species *C. insignifera*, at 38 sites, identified mostly at Lake Walyungup (permanent wetland) and Anstey Swamp (seasonal wetland). Occupancy records at seasonal and permanent wetlands for each year of monitoring indicate that there was no statistically significant difference in occupancy estimates between seasonal and permanent wetlands.

Occupancy rates in 2022 were high remaining consistent with the previous years. It was also noted that the area of water appeared to have the greatest influence on detection, with probability of detection highest with sites that had 100 m² to greater than 500 m² of water area. Detection probability was lowest when water was absent from the site.

Squelching Frog (*Crinia insignifera*), Biota Environmental Sciences





Greening Urban Environments

The City's 2017 Greening Plan had a target to install 15,000 new trees over five years, while also improving tree retention and canopy cover. As of June 2022, the City has met this target with **17,291 new trees** planted during this five year period. A review of the Greening Plan is currently underway to determine how the City is to progress the identified Green Goals.

46,016 native species seedlings were also planted in 2021/2022, in addition to the trees planted as part of the Greening Plan. The installation of these seedlings is part of the ongoing revegetation works undertaken across numerous City conservation reserves.

- **643 trees** planted as part of the Winter Street Tree Planting program in 2022.

Community Planting Days

- In 2021/2022, **12,240 seedlings** were planted across eight reserves over 20 community planting days.
- In partnership with Perth NRM, 791 volunteers from community groups and schools supported this effort.



3,525

trees planted

2018/2019



4,627

trees planted

2019/2020



3,367

trees planted

2020/2021



4,052

trees planted

2021/2022



Within the past year, the City has acquired six additional POS areas. The City now manages **449 POS areas, totalling 2,128 hectares.**

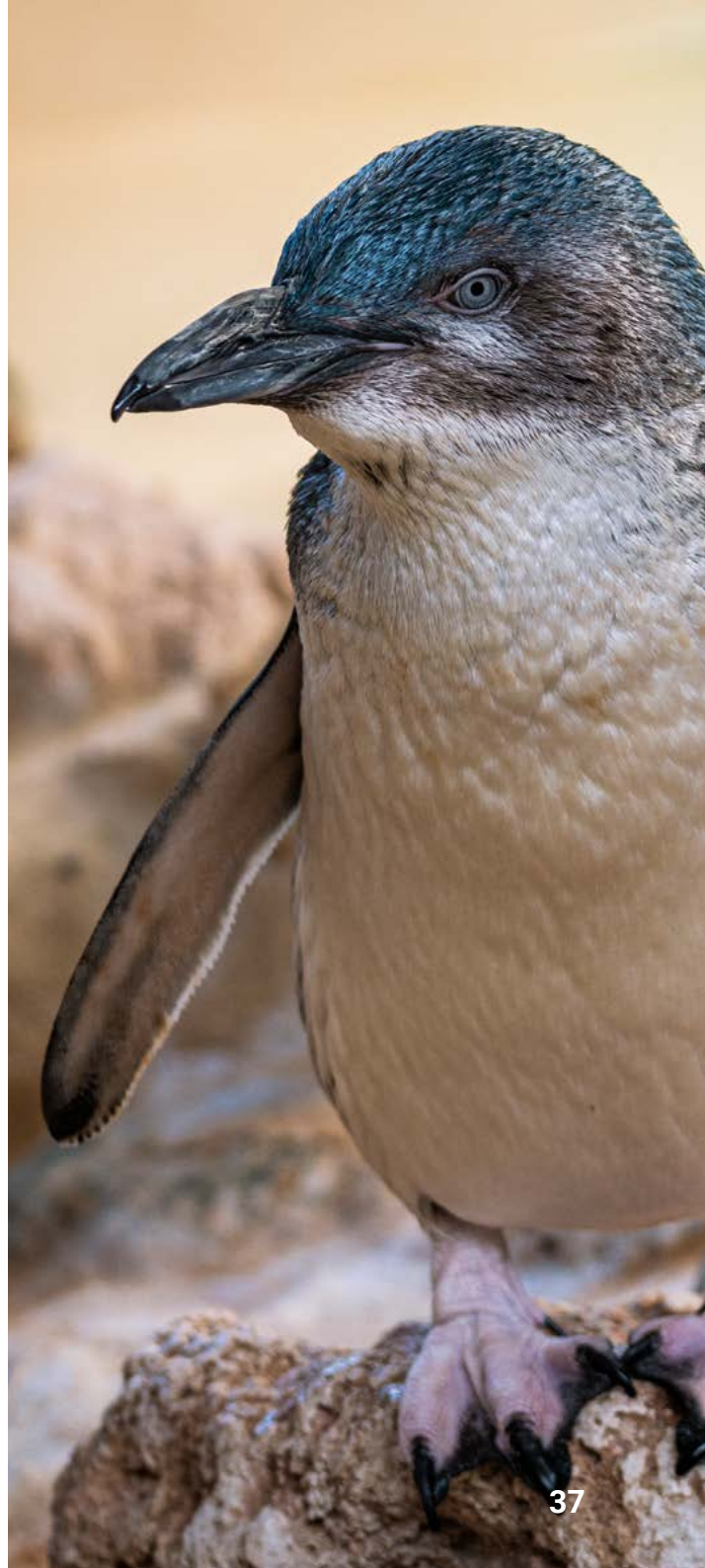


To maintain and manage these areas, the City has **100 dedicated staff employed.**

Focus Moving Forward



- In partnership with Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), contribute towards the annual population monitoring of the Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) colony at Penguin Island.
- Continue to participate in the DBCA Little Penguin Working Group.
- Provide key updates to the environmental management plans to be reviewed in 2023, including: Greening Plan and Foreshore Management Plan.
- Continue to implement actions identified in the City's Environmental Management Plans.
- Continue to giveaway free native plants through the City's annual Native Plants Giveaway.
- Seek Council endorsement of the *Planning Strategy – Environmental Protection* in early 2023. The new strategy is designed to protect and enhance environmental values by guiding land use planning processes, and will ultimately inform the City's Local Planning Strategy.
- The City is a project participant in the Saving Our Snake-Necked Turtle Project which aims to upskill the community to track the Snake-necked Turtle (*Chelodina oblonga*) and conduct important population and predation tracking surveys across Perth and regional WA.



Environmental Education and Engagement

Supporting Rockingham residents to engage in a healthy, sustainable lifestyle through events and workshops is a key element of the City's ongoing community engagement and education. During the last financial year, themes ranged from reducing waste to landfill, promoting active mobility and environmental awareness.



Strategic Community Plan Objectives:

1.4 Attractions and Events

Seek to host iconic community events and attractions that will entice residents and visitors throughout the year.

2.4 Community Engagement

Facilitate comprehensive community engagement on issues facing the City, ensuring that residents can provide input into shaping our future.

2.5 Community Capacity Building

Empower the community across all ages and abilities to be culturally aware and involved with a diverse range of community initiatives that incorporate volunteering.

4.3 Leadership in Sustainability

Provide community education on the management of waste, and provide opportunities for community involvement in sustainability programs.

4.7 Key Stakeholders Partnerships

Foster relationships and partnerships with key stakeholders to achieve enhanced community outcomes.



Key City Documents:

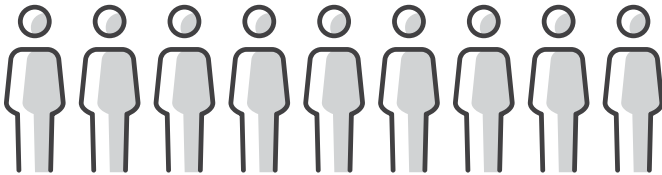
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018 (to be reviewed 2023)
- Volunteering Strategy 2016
- Cultural Development and the Arts Strategy 2018
- Library and Information Strategy 2017
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023
- **Community Safety and Support Services Strategy 2022-2027**



Grow It Local is a community initiative encouraging residents to grow, share and eat locally grown foods. 194 new community members joined the Grow It Local platform in 2021/2022. During 2021/2022 the City held 12 'Grow.Cook.Eat' workshops as part of two six-week series of workshops at local community gardens. Each session averaged 20 community members wanting to learn more about garden design, plant selection, growing from seed, improving soil, waterwise gardening and much more.

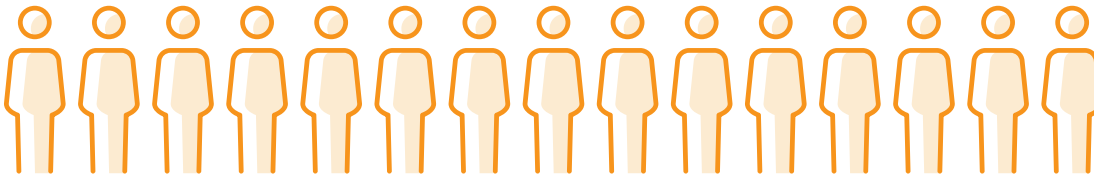


Grow It Local Members



2020/2021

328
members



2021/2022

522
members



In 2021/2022 **61 sustainability focused workshops** were held across the City's four libraries. These workshops included:



Junior Gardner Sessions

Painting pots and planting vegetable seeds for children aged 3-5 to take home.



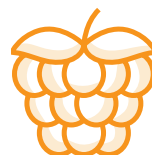
'Less Waste' Kitchen Workshop

Ways to reduce waste in the kitchen.



Sustainability in Action

Simple changes to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle.



Bush Tucker

Introduction to finding, cooking and eating local bush tucker.

Walk Safely to School Day - May 2022

The City actively supports this national event by providing a number of schools with a healthy breakfast as part of the event. The event aims to encourage active travel alternatives for students, and the benefits associated such as reduced traffic congestion, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved social wellbeing and a greater sense of community.



14
schools

2019/2020



19
schools

2020/2021



26
schools

2021/2022



Updates and Achievements

Castaways Sculpture Awards held in October 2021 is an annual event aimed at promoting environmental awareness, through the use of repurposing materials for a sculpture exhibition.



19

schools
participated

Upcycle Art Project held in 2022 seeks to encourage the repurposing of materials to create sustainable, reuse sculptures. This program forms part of the City's Castaway Sculpture Awards.

Corporate Volunteering

In November 2021, 13 City employees participated in a **corporate volunteering** event at Baldivis Community Garden. City Officers assisted on the day by undertaking tasks including weeding, planting of seedlings, painting equipment and plaques, and tidying of the gardens.

Rockingham Youth Centre



2

planting
workshops



1

Bike Maintenance
Workshop

Focus Moving Forward

- Support active mobility within the community through workshops.
- Continue to support local residents in growing local produce through partnership with Grow It Local.
- Library staff will continue to promote and drive sustainability through existing and new workshops and events.
- The City will employ a dedicated Environmental Education Officer to support the increase in delivery of education programs and workshops focused on waste minimisation and sustainability.





Climate Response

Globally, communities are feeling the impacts of a changing climate. In September 2022 the federal government introduced the Climate Change Act 2022 which supports a more progressive national emissions reduction target of a 43% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Being close to the community, local governments play an important role in adapting and mitigating climate change. Within the City, managing climate related risk continues to be reviewed and actioned through implementation of relevant strategic plans.



Strategic Community Plan Objectives:

3.1 Infrastructure Planning

Plan and develop community, sport and recreation facilities which meet the current and future needs of the City's growing population.

3.3 Climate Change Adaptation

Acknowledge and understand the impacts of climate change, and identify actions to mitigate and adapt to those impacts.



Key City Documents:

- **Coastal Facilities Strategy – August 2021**
- Coastal Hazard Risk Management Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) 2019
- Sustainability Strategy 2020





Coastal Monitoring Surveys

During 2021/2022, the City conducted coastal monitoring surveys across five locations including: Mersey Point, Safety Bay Foreshore, Point Peron, Waikiki Foreshore and Kwinana Headlands. The beach profile surveys collected are key to informing the ongoing monitoring and management of our extensive coastline.

Cities Power Partnership (CPP)

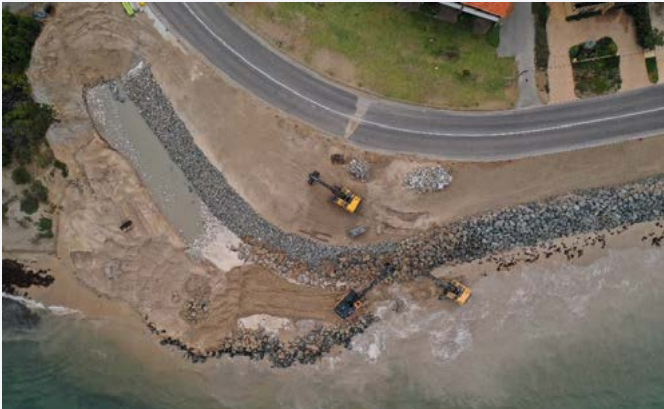
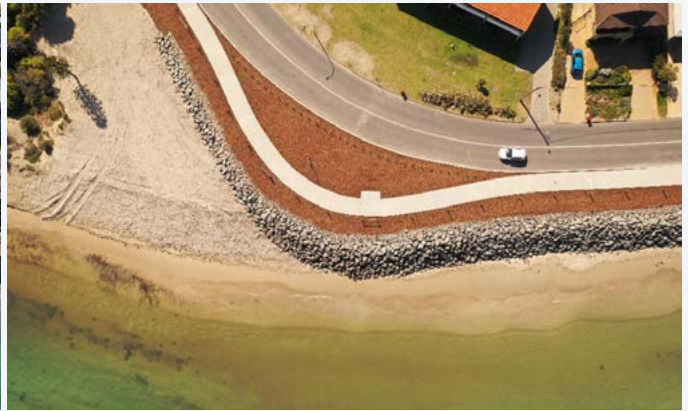
The CPP is administered by the Climate Council and is Australia's largest network of Local Governments committed to leading the way towards a zero emissions future. As part of the partnership, the City continues to deliver on its pledges focused on energy efficiency and emission reduction initiatives outlined in annual reporting to the CPP.

Mersey Point Granite Seawall Construction

The temporary seawall built in 2017, was constructed to protect major infrastructure and assets (including Arcadia Drive and several homes) in the short term, while further options were considered for the long term management. To install stronger, more appropriate infrastructure to support the long term protection of assets, the decision was made to reconstruct and extend the seawall.

During 2021/2022 the City completed two construction stages to reconstruct and extend the existing seawall located at Mersey Point. This involved the construction of a 325 metre granite seawall to replace the temporary limestone seawall, followed by the construction of a 100 metre extension on the eastern end of the existing seawall. Images shown to the right showcase the two separate stages completed in 2021 and 2022.

Planning for management and mitigation of climate-related hazards, such as sea-level rise and higher intensity storm surge events, has become increasingly important.



Mersey Point Granite Seawall Construction – December 2021 – May 2022 (Before and After)



The **Peron Naturaliste Partnership** is a collective of nine local governments between Cape Peron and Cape Naturaliste, formed in 2011, which aims to empower a resilient regional community to reduce risks and optimise opportunities presented by climate change. Since 2017, the City has collected monthly data on beach widths across 16 locations, including information on beach width data, on-ground photos and tidal measurements. Data collected will help inform short and long-term management and monitoring of our coastline through establishing a five year data baseline.

The CoastSnap station installed at Mersey Point Jetty in 2020 provides a platform for community members to snap images of Shoalwater Bay from a fixed location using a smartphone. Images from this location can then be shared via a QR code or social media. The station provides an opportunity to collect data on community coastal values in a consistent and interactive manner. To date 433 images have been uploaded at this location since installation, helping to provide ongoing data collection within the City of Rockingham. Supplied imagery is transformed into beach width data through image processing techniques. This data is used to identify seasonal and long-term shoreline changes to the Shoalwater Bay location.

As part of the project, researchers from the University of Western Australia (UWA) prepared a 'Real-time monitoring of coastal community values' report. Between mid-December 2021 and mid-July 2022, surveys were sent out as a prompt to users when uploading an image through CoastSnap. The 23 responses for users of the Mersey Point location indicated that:

- Water-based activities (e.g. boating, swimming, surfing) and nature-based activities (e.g. wildlife watching, conservation work) were of high priority for users of this area.
- Mental/emotional health was seen as the most important benefit gained from visiting the beach. Beach condition was also perceived to influence the emotional response from respondents.
- Across all survey locations, 59.46% strongly agreed with the statement 'I am concerned about the impacts of climate change on coasts generally'. While no respondents selected 'limited, no awareness', or that they 'did not accept climate change was occurring'.

The project report provides key recommendations for next steps including the opportunity to install more CoastSnap infrastructure.

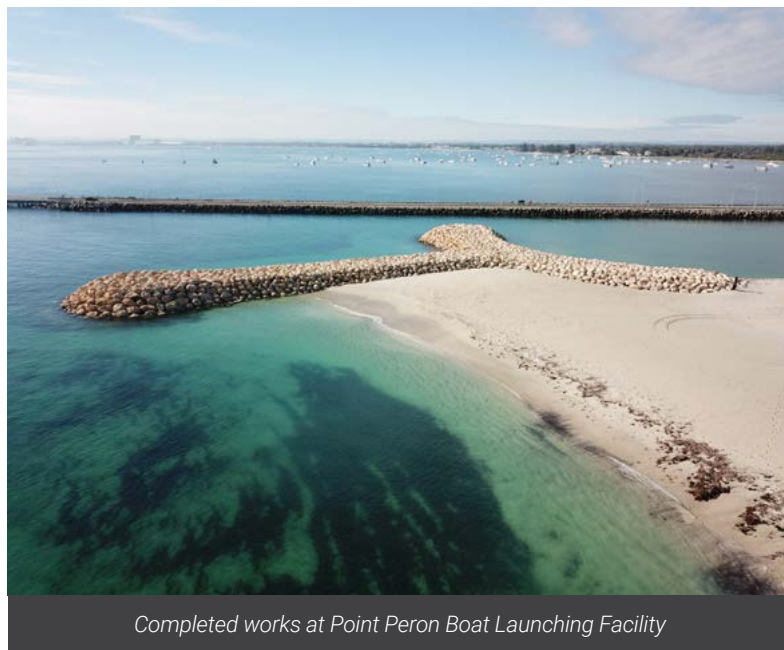


Point Peron Spur Groyne

Renewal works and extensions of the existing limestone groynes and seawall breakwater at Point Peron Boat Launching Facility were completed in the first half of 2022.

The existing spur groynes and breakwater, built in the 1970s was demolished and upgraded to a new spur groyne (20 m longer than the original) and a new breakwater. Rebuilding the spur groynes and breakwater will protect the boat ramp from waves and will limit sand build up within Point Peron boat launching facility.

To support the delivery of this project, the City secured \$650,000 in grant funding from the Department of Transport. The City's *Coastal Facilities Strategy* sets a clear vision for the infrastructure that is required to maintain coastal recreation for boat users, and this project is the latest in a long line of improvements to the Point Peron boat launching facility.



Completed works at Point Peron Boat Launching Facility

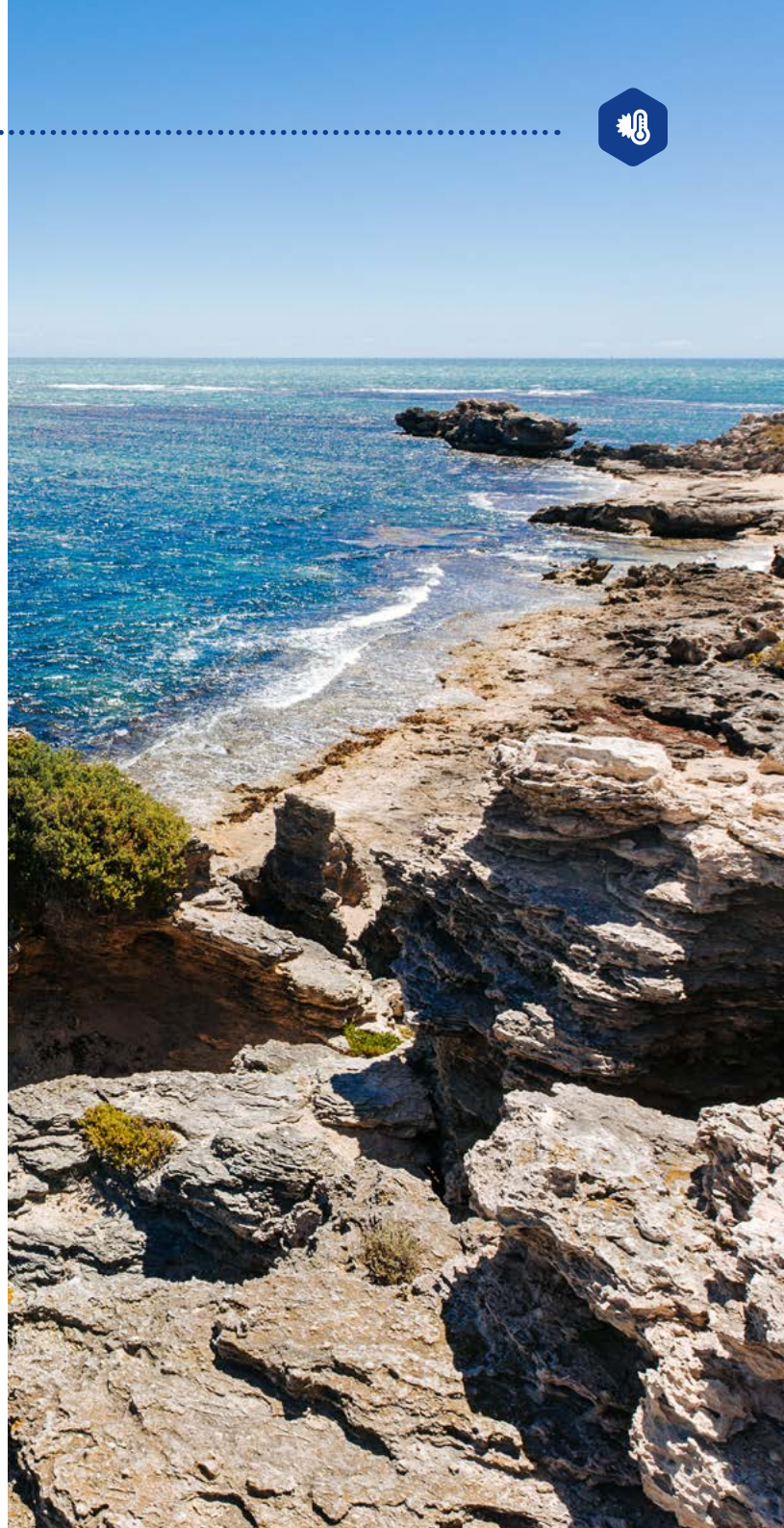
Point Peron Sand Trap

Natural build-up of sand occurs as a result of the Garden Island Causeway and is captured in the Point Peron sand trap. Excavation of sand from this area delivers renourishment to sites with significant erosion issues, and provides safe access to the Point Peron boat ramp.

The City excavated 22,470 m³ from the Point Peron sand trap across three separate excavation campaigns in 2021/2022. This sand was utilised for the construction of the Mersey Point Seawall, and beach re-nourishment works at Palm Beach and Apex Beach near Point Peron.



- Continue to progress actions and works identified within the City's CHRMAP, including the preparation of a Coastal Monitoring Plan.
- Determine preferred sites for Point Peron Sand Trap stockpile for beach renourishment.
- Completion of proactive works to extend the eastern end of the Mersey Point granite seawall following storm surges in mid-2022.
- Look to prepare Strategic Boating Plan in 2023, to provide long term guidance and an action plan for Council regarding the provision and service of boating infrastructure in the City.



Acknowledgements

The City wishes to acknowledge the following teams who collectively work to deliver the various sustainability actions detailed in this report.



Operations and
Fleet Services



Community
Capacity Building



Technical Services



Land Development
and Infrastructure



Library Services



Parks Services



Strategic Planning
and Environment



Waste Services

Further, thank you to all City of Rockingham residents who contribute towards our sustainable future.



Printed on
recycled paper

