



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

7 MAY 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Tuesday, 7 May 2024.**

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Administration on 6393 8106.

AGENDA

1 INTRODUCTION.....3

1.1 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests
and less than significant non-pecuniary interests.....3

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES.....5

2.1 Minutes of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee 21
March 2024.....5

2.2 Minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee 5
April 202427

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee at this meeting.

2 COMMITTEE MINUTES

2.1 MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 21 MARCH 2024

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/614

AUTHOR: Nigel Hobden, Manager City Presentation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee met on 21 March 2024 and the recommendation from that meeting are provided to the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee for adoption.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee at its meeting held on 21 March 2024.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.3 from the minutes of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting of 21 March 2024.
 - 3.3
 1. *That the Moulder Park Master plan be revisited.*
 2. *That the City Presentation budget be increased to allow for an additional street tree crew.*
 3. *That the Manager Water Treatment be invited to the next Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting to give a presentation on Council's Catchment Management Plan.*
 4. *That the Cook Park Master Plan remains as is.*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee from its meeting held on 21 March 2024 be adopted.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 PTWCC 21 March 2024 Minutes
- 2 PTWCC 21 March 2024 Agenda, D24/24134 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 21 MARCH 2024

COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr D Mallard (*Teams*), Mr Neil Jones, Mr Reg Kidd (*Teams*), Mr Malcolm Stacey (*5.05pm*), Ms Amanda Lockwood (*Teams*), Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Cyril Smith, Ms Vanessa Westcott, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, City Presentation Support Officer, Manager Development Assessments, Senior Strategic Planner, Town Planner Strategic

Guest – Robyn Whiteley

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Mr A Kennedy/Mr N Jones

That the apologies be accepted from Mr Brendan Stuart, Ms Sarah Keir, Mr Gavin Kidd, Ms Sharyn Pussell and the Manager City Presentation for the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting on 21 March 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Ms V Westcott/Mr M Stacey

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee held on 2 November 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting held on 2 November 2023.

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 UPDATE - LANDCOM DEVELOPMENT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/311

RECOMMENDATION**Mr N Jones/Ms V Westcott**

That the presentation on the Landcom Development be acknowledged.

3.2 ITEM FOR DISCUSSION - WILLOWS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/322

RECOMMENDATION**Cr M McDonell/Mr N Jones**

That the Item for Discussion on Willows be transferred to the next Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting.

3.3 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION - MOULDER PARK, STREET TREE & COOK PARK MASTER PLANS AND BUDGETS

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/338

- Discussion on Moulder Park Master Plan and whether recent works undertaken are actually in the Plan eg Multi-Use Gym Area.
- Concerns raised around Elephant Park and the level of service not matching up with its popularity.
- Discussion on the Street Tree Master Plan – Has not been re-done however there is a spreadsheet tracking plantings. Urban Forest Strategy will address the Street Tree Master Plan. Concerns raised around whether there is a maintenance plan within the Street Tree Master Plan and if so is it being adhered to.

RECOMMENDATION**Ms V Westcott/Mr M Stacey**

1. That the Moulder Park Master plan be revisited.
2. That the City Presentation budget be increased to allow for an additional street tree crew.
3. That the Manager Water Treatment be invited to the next Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting to give a presentation on Council's Catchment Management Plan.
4. That the Cook Park Master Plan remains as is.

Mr R Kidd left the meeting with the time being 6.08pm

4 GENERAL REPORTS

4.1 PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/178

RECOMMENDATION**Mr A Kennedy/Mr C Smith**

That the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan be reviewed and updated.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.01PM.



PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

21 MARCH 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in **COMMITTEE ROOM 3, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Thursday, 21 March 2024** commencing at **5.00PM**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Nigel Hobden on 6393 8241.

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building. The Committee Clerk will now identify the emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Apologies and Leave of Absence	3
1.2	Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
1.3	Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests.....	3
2	PREVIOUS MINUTES	4
2.1	Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee held on 02 November 2023	5
3	PRESENTATIONS.....	9
3.1	Update - Landcom Development	9
3.2	Item for Discussion - Willows	9
3.3	Items for Discussion - Moulder Park, Street Tree & Cook Park Master Plans and Budgets.....	9
4	GENERAL REPORTS	10
4.1	Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan	10

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

1 INTRODUCTION**MEMBERS**

Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Cr D Mallard, Mr Brendan Stuart, Ms Sarah Keir, Mr Reg Kidd, Mr Malcolm Stacey, Mr Neil Jones, Mr Gavin Kidd, Ms Amanda Lockwood, Mr Rod MacQueen, Ms Sharyn Pussell, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Cyril Smith, Ms Vanessa Westcott, Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services, Manager City Presentation, Water Treatment Manager, Horticultural Services Supervisor, City Presentation Support Officer.

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

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Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee at this meeting.

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee held on 2 November 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting held on 2 November 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee held on 2 November 2023

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLOR'S WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 2 NOVEMBER 2023

COMMENCING AT 5.00PM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr M McDonell (Chairperson), Mr Malcolm Stacey, Mr Neil Jones, Mr Cyril Smith, Ms Vanessa Westcott, Ms Sharyn Pussell (5.05pm), Mr Andrew Kennedy (5.05pm), Mr Reg Kidd (5.30pm Teams), Manager City Presentation, City Presentation Support Officer.

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Ms V Westcott/Mr M Stacey

That the apologies be accepted from Cr D Mallard, Mr Brendan Stuart, Ms Sarah Keir, Mr Gavin Kidd, Ms Amanda Lockwood, Mr Rod MacQueen and the Director Community, Recreation and Cultural Services for the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting on 2 November 2023.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Mr M Stacey/Mr N Jones

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee held on 7 September 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee meeting held on 7 September 2023.

MINUTES OF PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 2 NOVEMBER 2023

3 GENERAL REPORTS**3.1 NEWMAN PARK WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL AVENUE OF TREES - HERITAGE LANDSCAPE PLAN AND ARBORIST ASSESSMENT**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/871

Committee discussed that there be opportunities for more tree planting.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr A Kennedy/Mr M Stacey**

That the report of the Newman Park WWI Memorial Avenue of Trees – Heritage Landscape Plan and Arborist Assessment be acknowledged.

Mr Andrew Kennedy and Ms Amanda Lockwood joined the meeting with the time being 5.05pm**3.2 CITY GARDENS LEVEL OF SERVICE**

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1851

- Committee requested that the following be circulated to all members via email:
 - Table included in this report that states the maintenance and classification levels.
 - A map of the City showing classification levels.
 - Public Open Space tender scope of works.
 - Flow diagram of Open Spaces document.
- Discussed changing the title of “CBD Gardens – Levels of Maintenance” to “Street Scape Levels of Service”.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr A Kennedy/Ms V Westcott**

1. That the Committee provide comments on the CBD Gardens Level of Maintenance report that is currently being reviewed by Council’s Horticultural Services Supervisor.
2. That the Committee members provide comments on the 4 documents requested to be distributed.

** Mr Reg Kidd joined the meeting via Teams with the time being 5.30pm**

MINUTES OF PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 2 NOVEMBER 2023

3.3 PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

TRIM REFERENCE: 2023/1852

RECOMMENDATION**Mr C Smith/Ms S Pussell**

1. That the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan be reviewed and updated.
2. That Council investigate ways of reducing the impact of cattle on the remnant vegetation within the NDR Sports Precinct / future Tablelands Ecosystems Park including exclusion fencing and lease termination with a report back to the committee on options and costings.
3. That Council investigate what can be undertaken to enhance the Gateway Park (Including the WW2 Memorial Garden and Old Dairy Building).
 - The Director Development Services be asked to attend the next meeting of the Parks, Tree, Waterways Community Committee to talk about the Landcom development adjoining Gateway Park.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.57PM.

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

3 PRESENTATIONS**3.1 UPDATE - LANDCOM DEVELOPMENT**

The Director Development Services will deliver a presentation on the Landcom Development.

3.2 ITEM FOR DISCUSSION - WILLOWS

Mrs Vanessa Westcott to lead a discussion on Willows.

3.3 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION - MOULDER PARK, STREET TREE & COOK PARK MASTER PLANS AND BUDGETS

Mr Neil Jones to lead a discussion on the following:

- Are there issues in Moulder Park relating to management and enhancements that can be addressed by updating or changing the guiding policy, removing certain elements, or adding new ones (eg. the Bob Russell playground - was that a concept in the Master Plan)? What are the plans for creek bank restoration?
- Regarding the Street Tree Master Plan, are updates required and is the level of service keeping up with maintenance needs, and/or should the policy be amended?
- Regarding the Cook Park Master Plan - Council adopted a resolution to retain the Aviary, which has implications for other implementation issues in the Plan eg. access, future of Bastick Cottage. Could the Committee be updated on the current status of the Plan. Are changes required to the plan, what happens now?
- The City Presentation budget may not be increasing with increased demands of our growing city. Are there any specific (major) projects that the Committee might like to be considered in the Council Budget that are not covered by the Operational Budget?

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

4 GENERAL REPORTS**4.1 PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN**

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/178

AUTHOR: Nigel Hobden, Manager City Presentation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Attached for the information of the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee is the Action Plan from the meeting of 2 November 2023.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “1.1 Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan be reviewed and priorities determined.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Park, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan, D24/13627

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

Attachment 1 Park, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan

D18/37145

Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan

Action	Who	Delivery/Operational Plan reference	Cost	Resourcing	Start	End	Update/Completed
Urban Forest Strategy Inclusive of a natural resources management plan – Title to be determined.	Director Community Recreation and Cultural Services Committee	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Consultant	May 2022	September 2023	Covering – Riparian zones, wetlands and roadside remnant vegetation Draft word document will ready approx. mid-Aug and then sent to Council's Design Team. Will be circulated early Sept to PTWCC and ESCC committee members. Community consultation will take place before being sent to Council for adoption. Urban Forest Strategy draft received from Simon. Waiting internal feedback before setting a date for the proposed workshop. Draft currently sitting with Council's Design Team. Draft emailed to committee members on 6 Feb 2023 to review before workshop on 22 Feb 2023.
Cook Park Aviary	Manager City Presentation				October 2023		Report to Council second half of the year on potential Aviary options and their costs. Councillor on site briefing 19 Oct.

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

Attachment 1 Park, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan

Action	Who	Delivery/Operational Plan reference	Cost	Resourcing	Start	End	Update/Completed
Plan Of Management review.	Manager City Presentation	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.		Consultant engaged	January 2021	December 2022	Received drafts – 5 to review. Draft plans referred to Minister Crown Lands as required before referral to Council. Minor amendments requested by Crown Lands review to meet the Ministers requirements. Cook Park Orange Botanic Gardens Robertson Park Orange City Reserves Orange Rural Reserves.
Arboretums – Tablelands Eco system Park.	Manager City Presentation	Concept Plan		Consultant concept design	Sept 21		Concept design distributed July 2022 Circulate Central Tablelands Ecosystem Park Landscape Master Plan and location image - Nigel emailed 28 July 2023 to all committee members. Site visit completed on 27 September 2023. Recommendation gone to Council to investigate ways to reduce impact of cattle on remnant vegetation including exclusion fencing and lease termination.

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

Attachment 1 Park, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan

Action	Who	Delivery/Operational Plan reference	Cost	Resourcing	Start	End	Update/Completed
Sporting Precinct Landscape Master Plan	Manager City Presentation	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.					Concept design distributed July 2022
Gateway Park	Manager City Presentation	1.1. Develop and maintain parks and open spaces within the city, that meet the needs of the community.					<p>Master Plan for the park??</p> <p>CRM entered for graffiti removal. Council staff have advised products used to remove graffiti are not suitable for the surface and repainting undertaken. Currently sitting with Alison Russell due to heritage status.</p> <p>Recommendation to investigate what can be undertaken to enhance the park (Including the WW2 Memorial Garden and Old Dairy Building).</p> <p>Nigel to get back to the committee as to whether the adjoining development will include Gateway Park. Mark Hodges to be asked to attend next PTWCC meeting to talk about the adjoining Landcom development.</p>

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

Attachment 1 Park, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan

COMPLETED

Action	Who	Delivery/Operational Plan reference	Cost	Start	End	Update/Completed
Undertake a review of Cook Park Masterplan	Committee	7.1. Engage with the community to develop plans for growth and development that value the local environment.	Nil – review only		June 2020	Committee to take a walk around Cook Park early 2020. Budget bid for steel edging for paths. Estimate of cost to undertake. COMPLETED
Identify small neighbourhood parks that could benefit from tree planting to increase their environmental value	Committee	7.1. Engage with the community to develop plans for growth and development that value the local environment.	Nil – investigation only. Cost to undertake planting to be	July 2018		Committee to be provided with a list of neighbourhood parks that can be considered for additional tree planting. Desk top review available PTW members to be undertaken 5.30pm Wednesday 19 June 2019 Reinitiate a drive/site visits. Send out a map and feedback on locations. Scheduled for 18 November 2020.

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

Attachment 1 Park, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan

Action	Who	Delivery/Operational Plan reference	Cost	Start	End	Update/Completed
						COMPLETED Further opportunities will be developed through the Urban Forest Strategy.
Undertake a review of the Street Tree Master Plan	Committee	7.1. Engage with the community to develop plans for growth and development that value the local environment. 9.4 Develop a vibrant civic and commercial precinct as a centre for the community	Nil - review only.	Mid 2020	December 2019	Presentation to be provided at the Parks, Trees and Waterways Committee meeting in November 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General overview of the document How Council staff apply the STMP COMPLETED
Investigate the possible use of permeable pavement around street trees and report back to the Committee.	Horticultural Services Supervisor & Manager City Presentation	7.1. Engage with the community to develop plans for growth and development that value the local environment. 9.4 Develop a vibrant civic and commercial precinct as a centre for the community	Nil – Investigation only.	August 2018		Investigations continuing into suitable permeable pavements and the effectiveness of this treatment. COMPLETED

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**21 MARCH 2024**

Attachment 1 Park, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan

Action	Who	Delivery/Operational Plan reference	Cost	Start	End	Update/Completed
Urban Forest Strategy – Link to Landscape Master Plans and Conservation Management Plans to be distributed to committee members via email. Hard copy of Master Plans to be available at library for committee members to have access to. Inclusive of a natural resources management plan – Title to be determined.	Director Community Recreation and Cultural Services Committee	7.1. Engage with the community to develop plans for growth and development that value the local environment.	Not budgeted for	May 2022	June 2023	Covering – Riparian zones, wetlands and roadside remnant vegetation
Urban Forest Strategy – Two workshops to be held on 1 and 15 December 2022. Links for Greener Public Spaces, Greener Public Design Guide and examples of other Council's Urban Forest strategies to be emailed out to committee members for review.	Committee/Manager City Presentation	7.1. Engage with the community to develop plans for growth and development that value the local environment.	Not budgeted for	Nov 2022	Completed	Links emailed to committee members on 24 November 2022.

PARKS, TREES AND WATERWAYS COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
Attachment 1 Park, Trees and Waterways Community Committee Action Plan

21 MARCH 2024

Action	Who	Delivery/Operational Plan reference	Cost	Start	End	Update/Completed
Cook Park – Conservation Management Plan.	Committee	7.1. Engage with the community to develop plans for growth and development that value the local environment.		January 2021	September 2022	Presentation by Adaptive Architecture and Mark D McCrone 8 September 2022 COMPLETED
Geographical name board – naming of unidentified parks eg Stirling Ave.	Committee	7.1. Engage with the community to develop plans for growth and development that value the local environment.				To be covered in POM by consultants. COMPLETED

**2.2 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 5
APRIL 2024**

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/590

AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 5 April 2024 are provided to the Environmental Sustainability Policy Committee for adoption.

At the meeting, the committee resolved to recommend the following as Council will note is reflected in the attached minutes from that meeting:

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at its meeting held on 5 April 2024.
- 2 That Council determine recommendations 3.3 from the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting of 5 April 2024.
 - 3.3.1 *Formally adopt the biodiversity mapping study undertaken by The Environmental Factor in 2020 and incorporate the Biodiversity Values Map into the Orange LEP, as an amendment.*
 - 3.3.2 *Make provision for Council's biodiversity mapping to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, such as every five years, to account for variation in fauna/flora communities.*
 - 3.3.3 *Recognise that gaps remain in biodiversity data/knowledge across the Orange LGA, and more detailed studies are required to identify biodiversity values/assets.*
 - 3.3.4 *Make budget and resource provision for the identification of key components of a biodiversity strategic plan, as a matter of urgency.*
 - 3.3.5 *Establish a Biodiversity Working Group to take responsibility for and progress the projects in parts 2, 3 and 4 of this recommendation.*
- 3 That the remainder of the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee from its meeting held on 5 April 2024 be adopted.

It is recommended by staff that Council resolves:

- 1 *That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at its meeting held on 5 April 2024; and*
- 2 *That a follow-up report be prepared by staff to ESCC and Council on the adequacy of Council's current approach to biodiversity conservation reflecting the concerns raised by ESCC along with the other items listed in the committee's recommendation (including the implications of the 2020 biodiversity mapping and its associated report's recommendations for our LEP and DCP controls).*

Outlined in the body of the cover report are the reasons for such deviation from the recommendation of the committee.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations of the ESCC below are wide ranging. Given the complexity of Biodiversity legislation at State and Federal level and the conflicting data sets currently available locally, regionally and throughout the State, it is difficult to determine the financial implications of the recommendations.

The reality is that progress on biodiversity will take time and resources, details of which would be reported to Council once the specifics are known. Much of these controls will be planned out within the new comprehensive DCP that is expected to be finalised in early 2025, however temporary policy responses where required can be developed prior to this time.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Following the ESCC meeting, staff investigated the appropriateness of actioning the recommendations of the ESCC Meeting. This included seeking advice from Department of Planning staff during a regular meeting last week. Departmental staff agreed that policy and legislation around biodiversity is complex and often conflicting and a number of policy approaches will be required by Council in order to address these issues, which are not captured by the ESCC recommendation.

Further research by staff since the ESCC meeting has confirmed that the 2020 Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping has a number of technical issues that restrict Council from simply adopting the updated map in the next LEP update, as has been recommended by the ESCC.

To this end, a follow-up report will be prepared to ESCC and Council on the adequacy of Council’s current approach to biodiversity conservation reflecting the concerns raised by ESCC along with the other items listed in the committee’s recommendation (including the implications of the 2020 biodiversity mapping and its associated report’s recommendations for our LEP and DCP controls).

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 That Council acknowledge the reports presented to the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at its meeting held on 5 April 2024.**
- 2 That a follow-up report be prepared by staff to ESCC and Council on the adequacy of Council’s current approach to biodiversity conservation reflecting the concerns raised by ESCC along with the other items listed in the committee’s recommendation (including the implications of the 2020 biodiversity mapping and its associated report’s recommendations for our LEP and DCP controls).**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Following a further review of Recommendation 3.3.1 and discussion with the Department of Planning, it has been confirmed by staff that acting upon this recommendation is not as straightforward as implied in ESCC recommendation.

The TEF report ("Expansion of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Dataset", July 2020) and its accompanying "Revised Terrestrial Biodiversity Map" are more problematic than first thought.

Key issues are:

- Inclusion of a dataset that is not appropriate for Council to incorporate into its development controls ("Key Fish Habitat"). This is an online dataset that is maintained by NSW Fisheries. It has a specific role under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* that we do not need to duplicate within our local controls.
- The lumping together of "terrestrial biodiversity" and "sensitive waterways" data (these are subject to separate clauses and maps under the OLEP 2011). It won't be difficult to unpick these, but there are decisions that need to be made about what we should aim to achieve, particularly in regard to the sensitive waterways controls and mapping.
- The current OLEP 2011 Terrestrial Biodiversity Map makes a distinction between "High Biodiversity Sensitivity" and "Moderate Biodiversity Sensitivity" that is not reflected in TEF's Revised Terrestrial Biodiversity Map.
- The methodology and mapping standards used to generate the LEP's current Terrestrial Biodiversity Map and Watercourses Map have not been documented anywhere in Council's records. From reviewing the available datasets (including the State Vegetation Type Map and NSW Hydrology Dataset), it is unclear how they were originally generated as there are clear mismatches between the LEP maps and the current State datasets. The TEF map simply adds more areas to those shown on the LEP's existing maps, meaning that it hasn't actually addressed this initial methodological gap.

All of this means that the TEF map cannot simply be "adopted" in its current form.

As previously mentioned, given the complexity of data and the varying and certainly conflicting controls, it would be more appropriate for staff to prepare a report to the next ESCC meeting on the adequacy of Council's current approach to biodiversity conservation (including the implications of the TEF report's recommendations for our LEP and DCP controls), reflecting the concerns raised by ESCC and the other items listed in the committee's recommendation (subject to the comments below).

In terms of ESCC Recommendations 3.3.2 and 3.3.3, these two recommendations are important points and can be reframed once a follow-up report from staff is reported to ESCC to clarify the process. It is expected that this would be along the lines of establishing a centralised data platform (linked to Council's corporate GIS system - Enlighten) to collate information from BDARs and other ecological assessments that are submitted to Council in

support of any development applications and planning proposals that are received. It is high quality data that should be captured for future reference.

In regards to Recommendation 3.3.4, staff will advise on the most appropriate policy approach to achieve a “City-wide Biodiversity Strategy”.

A Biodiversity Strategy would address, such as:

- Council’s overall vision and objectives for local biodiversity conservation
- Identify and prioritise biodiversity/habitat corridors to inform future conservation investment and land use planning.
- Best-practice pathways to manage and govern Council’s existing biodiversity assets
- Updating Council’s overall biodiversity asset database.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 ESCC 5 April 2024 Minutes
- 2 ESCC 5 April 2024 Agenda, D24/38244 [↓](#)

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 5 APRIL 2024

COMMENCING AT 8:02 AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Mr Peter West, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Stephen Nugent, Ms Bev Williams, Mr Reg Kidd (*Audiovisual Link*), Mr Malcolm Stacey, Ms Shahreen Alford, Ms Amanda Lockwood (*Audiovisual Link*), Ms Jennifer Lacey, Director Development Services, Water Treatment Manager, Sustainability Project Officer, Sustainability Officer

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Mr P West/Mr A Kennedy

That the apologies be accepted from Mr Granton Smith, Mr Nick King, Mr Robert Alford & Mr Ronald Finch for the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting on 5 April 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED

Mr S Nugent/Mr P West

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 16 February 2024 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting held on 16 February 2024.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 CHAIR REPORT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/419

RECOMMENDATION**Mr A Kennedy/Mr P West**

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal report provided by the Chair.

Mr R Kidd entered the meeting with the time being 8.25am

3.2 PRIORITY PROJECT GROUPS - UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/435

The four Priority Project Groups provided a verbal update on key objectives:

Biodiversity

- Item 3.3 (Biodiversity Mapping) on agenda is primary focus.
- Determine involvement in Biodiversity Month, September 2024.
- Further encourage use of the iNaturalist platform to educate and engage the community on biodiversity in the region.

Water Management

- Briefing on the Orange Raw Water Supply OEMP report 2022-23 will be an item for ESCC at a future meeting.

Sustainable Urban Design

- Provide input into the Urban Forest Strategy.
- Draft Affordable Housing Policy to go to Council with a focus on Councils diverse housing development in the Redmond Place Precinct.

Climate Action Policy

- Community group Electrify2800 continue to meet.
- Organise a subgroup meeting to discuss action items for remaining term.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr P West/Mr A Kennedy**

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal reports provided by the Priority Project groups.

3.3 BIODIVERSITY DATA & PRIORITIES REVIEW

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/437

RECOMMENDATION**Mr P West/Mr S Nugent**

Recognising that current biodiversity (flora/fauna) mapping data available to Council is an important, if incomplete, component of Council's integrated planning processes, and recognising that biodiversity considerations impact Council's work across the organisation, the Committee recommends that Council:

1. Formally adopt the biodiversity mapping study undertaken by The Environmental Factor in 2020 and incorporate the Biodiversity Values Map into the Orange LEP, as an amendment.
2. Make provision for Council's biodiversity mapping to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, such as every five years, to account for variation in fauna/flora communities.
3. Recognise that gaps remain in biodiversity data/knowledge across the Orange LGA, and more detailed studies are required to identify biodiversity values/assets.
4. Make budget and resource provision for the identification of key components of a biodiversity strategic plan, as a matter of urgency.
5. Establish a Biodiversity Working Group to take responsibility for and progress the projects in parts 2, 3 and 4 of this recommendation.

3.4 GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ 2024

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/415

RECOMMENDATION**Ms S Alford/Mr P West**

1. That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the report on the Great Southern Bioblitz 2024.
2. That the Biodiversity Priority Project Group meet to confirm how Council can support this year's event.

MATTER ARISING**Mr A Kennedy**

Mr A Kennedy requested the inclusion of a legacy report for this term as a discussion item for the ESCC meeting on 7 June 2024.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:15AM.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

5 APRIL 2024

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that an **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE** on **Friday, 5 April 2024** commencing at **8:00 AM**.

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Eli Todman on 6393 8208.

AGENDA

EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of an emergency, the building may be evacuated. You will be required to vacate the building. The Committee Clerk will now identify the emergency muster point.

Under no circumstances is anyone permitted to re-enter the building until the all clear has been given and the area deemed safe by authorised personnel.

In the event of an evacuation, a member of Council staff will assist any member of the public with a disability to vacate the building.

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Apologies and Leave of Absence	3
1.2	Acknowledgement of Country.....	3
1.3	Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests.....	3
2	PREVIOUS MINUTES	4
2.1	Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 16 February 2024	5
3	GENERAL REPORTS	9
3.1	Chair Report.....	9
3.2	Priority Project Groups - update	11
3.3	Biodiversity Data & Priorities Review	13
3.4	Great Southern BioBlitz 2024	37

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**5 APRIL 2024**

1 INTRODUCTION**MEMBERS**

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr M McDonell, Dr Vikas Mittal, Mr Peter West, Mr Robert Alford, Mr Nick King, Mr Anthony Doyle, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Stephen Nugent, Mr Granton Smith, Mr Ronald Finch, Ms Bev Williams, Mr George Bate, Mr Reg Kidd, Mr Malcolm Stacey, Ms Shahreen Alford, Ms Jennifer Wickham, Ms Amanda Lockwood, Ms Jennifer Lacey, Mr Cyril Smith, Director Development Services, Manager Building and Environment, Water Treatment Manager, Manager City Presentation, Manager Waste Services and Technical Support, Water and Sewerage Strategic Manager

1.1 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE**1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, the people of the Wiradjuri Nation. I pay my respects to Elders past and present, and extend those respects to Aboriginal Peoples of Orange and surrounds, and Aboriginal people here with us today.

1.3 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee at this meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 APRIL 2024

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 16 February 2024 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate records of the proceedings of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting held on 16 February 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 16 February 2024

ORANGE CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILLORS WORKROOM, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE

ON 16 FEBRUARY 2024

COMMENCING AT 8:02 AM

1 INTRODUCTION

ATTENDANCE

Cr D Mallard (Chairperson), Cr M McDonell, Mr Peter West (*Audiovisual Link*), Mr Robert Alford, Mr Nick King, Mr Stephen Nugent, Mr Ronald Finch, Mr Reg Kidd (*Audiovisual Link*), Mr Malcolm Stacey, Ms Amanda Lockwood (*Audiovisual Link*), Ms Jennifer Lacey, Mr Cyril Smith, Director Development Services, Water Treatment Manager, Water and Sewerage Strategic Manager

1.1 Apologies and Leave of Absence

RESOLVED

Mr S Nugent/Cr M McDonell

That the apologies be accepted from Ms Bev Williams, Mr Andrew Kennedy, Mr Granton Smith and Ms Shah Alford for the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting on 16 February 2024.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chairperson conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Declaration of pecuniary interests, significant non-pecuniary interests and less than significant non-pecuniary interests

Nil.

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 16 FEBRUARY 2024

2 PREVIOUS MINUTES

RESOLVED	Mr S Nugent/Mr M Stacey
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee held on 3 November 2023 (copies of which were circulated to all members) be and are hereby confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee meeting held on 3 November 2023.	

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 CHAIR REPORT

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/60

RECOMMENDATION	Cr M McDonell/Mr R Finch
That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal report provided by the Chair.	

3.2 PRIORITY PROJECT GROUPS - UPDATE

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/57

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 16 FEBRUARY 2024

The four Priority Project Teams spent time in breakout sessions identifying key objectives for the remaining term of the Committee.

Climate Action Policy

- Community education will be a primary focus, with recently formed community group 'Electrify2800' playing a role in this initiative
- Support Council to explore options in becoming an electricity retailer
- Review the NSW Net Zero Community Emissions Guide and identify programs that can be implemented
- Conduct a review of the Climate Change Management Plan with Council's Sustainability Officer

Sustainable Urban Design

- Continue to support Redmond Place Landcom project, which will be utilised as a practical example of sustainable urban design
- Provide input into the update of several key interim policies and strategies
- Redmond Place urban design planning proposal will be shared with Committee members when available
- Urban Forest Strategy draft under review with Parks, Trees and Waterways Community Committee. ESCC to provide input at a later date

Water Management

- Support water sensitive urban design in Redmond Place development
- Review Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan and Annual Raw Water Supply Report
- Focus on water in new subdivision code with emphasis on water sensitive cities, including blue and green infrastructure
- Explore feasibility of a site visit to Purified Recycled Water Treatment plant in Quakers Hill, Sydney

Biodiversity

- Further enhance biodiversity assessments
- Improve biodiversity threat mapping
- Input into Urban Forest Strategy when available
- Meet with Council Strategic Planner to further develop LEP mapping and provide a gap analysis e.g. include native grass in mapping
- Support Biodiversity Month (September) and community groups

Mr P West asked whether the enhancement of the DCP will provide stricter standards which will need to be addressed when completing biodiversity assessment during development application process.

Director Development Services explained there would be an interim biodiversity policy outlining items that must be considered in application and how these must be assessed.

RECOMMENDATION**Mr S Nugent/Mr N King**

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal reports provided by the Priority Project Teams.

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE 16 FEBRUARY 2024

3.3 ADAPT NSW FORUM

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/59

RECOMMENDATION	Cr M McDonell/Mr C Smith
That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledges the report provided by Council’s Sustainability Officer on the AdaptNSW Forum.	

3.4 COMMUNITY ENERGY UPGRADES FUND

TRIM REFERENCE: 2024/58

RECOMMENDATION	Mr S Nugent/Mr M Stacey
That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledges the verbal report provided by Council’s Sustainability Officer.	

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:37AM.

3 GENERAL REPORTS

3.1 CHAIR REPORT

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/419
AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chair will provide a verbal report with feedback on Council’s adoption of Committee recommendations and share any other information relevant to the ESCC.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal report provided by the Chair.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

3.2 PRIORITY PROJECT GROUPS - UPDATE

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/435
AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an opportunity for the Priority Project groups to provide a verbal update on current focus areas.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.1. Identify and deliver essential water, waste and sewer infrastructure to service the community into the future”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the verbal reports provided by the Priority Project groups.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 ESCC Project Planning Overview - April 2024, D24/27503

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 APRIL 2024

Attachment 1 ESCC Project Planning Overview - April 2024

Version 4 19.03.24

ESCC 2022 - 2024 PRIORITY PROJECT PLANNING – ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

PRIORITY PROJECTS	Climate Action Policy	Sustainable Urban Design	Water Management	Biodiversity
Priority Project Team Members	Cr Mallard (Convenor), Cr McDonnell, Robert Alford, Stephen Nugent, Bev Williams, Granton Smith, Jen Lacey	Cr McDonnell (Convenor), Bev Williams, Jen Lacey, Shah Alford, Cyril Smith, Malcolm Stacey	Cyril Smith (Convenor), Reg Kidd, Ron Finch	Peter West (Convenor), Nick King, Stephen Nugent, Jen Lacey, Reg Kidd, Andrew Kennedy, Shah Alford, Malcolm Stacey
OCC Community Strategic Plan	<i>9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community</i>	<i>8.1. Plan for growth and development that balances liveability with valuing the local environment</i>	<i>8.3. Enact policies and practices to protect the sustainability and security of water destined for potable supply for the water catchment area</i>	<i>8.1. Plan for growth and development that balances liveability with valuing the local environment</i>
Other OCC Community Committee Projects	Urban Forest Strategy	Urban Forest Strategy	Blackmans Swamp Creek Stormwater Harvesting Stage 2	Urban Forest Strategy
OCC Operational Activities	Sustainability, Rooftop Solar Installations	2022-2025 DCP Review	Water Management	Biodiversity Mapping - LEP & DCP
Community Education & Engagement	Climate Action Community Leadership, Electrify2800		Purified Recycled Water Treatment plant tour (Sydney)	Great Southern BioBlitz 2024, Biodiversity month (September)
Energy	Renewable energy initiatives	Community battery in Redmond Place development	Solar power, energy efficiency upgrades	
Project Focus – Must Do	Climate Change Management Plan review	Input into update of key interim policies and strategies	Support water sensitive urban design in Redmond Place development	Gap analysis of biodiversity mapping and support LEP amendments
Project Focus – Nice To Do				
Project Focus - Bench				

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 APRIL 2024

3.3 BIODIVERSITY DATA & PRIORITIES REVIEW

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/437

AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Authors: Biodiversity Priority Project Team**

Biodiversity Priority Project Team met on Monday 18th March 2024 with Council Strategic Planner, Chris Brown, and discussed various issues including:

- Use of biodiversity mapping and data in Council decision-making
- The status of the report prepared for Council in 2020 by consultants *The Environmental Factor*
- The relationship between current biodiversity mapping and Council's LEP and DCP
- Future priorities for biodiversity mapping and data gathering in the Orange LGA.

Discussion at the meeting resulted in the Recommendation below with background to the Recommendation in the Supporting Information section.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

Recognising that current biodiversity (flora/fauna) mapping data available to Council is an important, if incomplete, component of Council's integrated planning processes, and recognising that biodiversity considerations impact Council's work across the organisation, the Committee recommends that Council:

1. Formally adopt the biodiversity mapping study undertaken by The Environmental Factor in 2020 and incorporate the Biodiversity Values Map into the Orange LEP, as an amendment.
2. Make provision for Council's biodiversity mapping to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, such as every five years, to account for variation in fauna/flora communities.
3. Recognise that gaps remain in biodiversity data/knowledge across the Orange LGA, and more detailed studies are required to identify biodiversity values/assets.
4. Make budget and resource provisions for the development of a Biodiversity Strategic Plan, to be completed in the next term of Council.
5. Establish a Biodiversity Working Group to take responsibility for and progress the projects in parts 2, 3 and 4 of this recommendation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**5 APRIL 2024****3.3 Biodiversity Data & Priorities Review**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

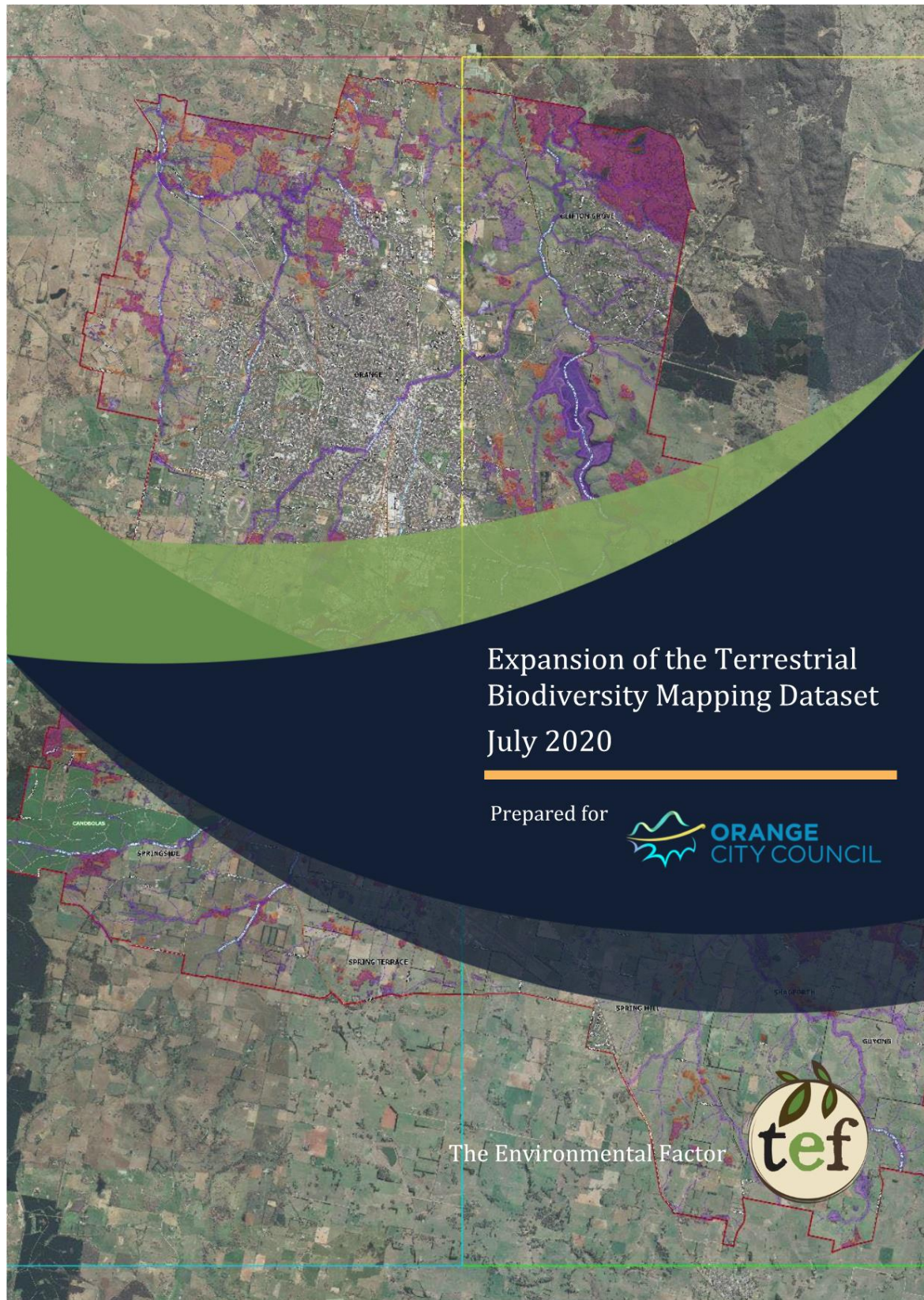
SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Biodiversity Priority Project Team met most recently on Monday 18 March 2024 to discuss biodiversity mapping and data gathering, and devise recommendations for the Committee to consider. The following notes provide background to that discussion.

- Urban development across the Orange LGA is encroaching on potentially significant but not fully assessed biodiversity assets.
- The most recent biodiversity study provided new information in a report prepared for Council in 2020 by consultants The Environmental Factor.
- The report highlighted numerous areas of moderate-high biodiversity values, and identified some inadequacies of existing biodiversity information and mapping which is used to guide development decisions.
- Addressing those inadequacies by collecting additional information about biodiversity across the LGA will mean that Council will be better placed to protect biodiversity into the future.
- Limitations in biodiversity data/knowledge has also been identified as a barrier to securing external funding for revegetation and landscape enhancement projects.
- NSW Government agencies and non-government community-led organisations (such as Landcare) identify that Orange has habitat for a number of icon species including superb parrots, koalas and platypus.
- Comprehensive biodiversity data and critical habitat sites must be identified and mapped. This will inform strategic planning policy and manage routine development proposals in the best interests of Orange and its biodiversity assets.
- Preparation of a Biodiversity Strategic Plan will complement the improved data and mapping.
- Better identification and protection of our biodiversity assets will also deliver benefits beyond improved urban planning, including enhancing our adaptation to climate change and supporting our water cycle management as just two examples.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 FINAL 20200818 OCC Biodiversity Mapping Expansion, D23/68397



Expansion of the Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Dataset – for Orange City LGA

Document Verification

Revision	Author/s	Internal Review	Date submitted	Client Review and Approval	
				Name	Date
DRAFT V_0.1	J Sanderson, A Uhrig	E Cotterill	28/07/2020	Nigel Hobden, OCC	14/08/2020
FINAL V_1.0	J Sanderson, A Uhrig		18/08/2020		

EnviroFact Pty Ltd, T/A The Environmental Factor

P.O. Box 268 Bathurst NSW 2795

ABN: 37 607 339 131

Ph: 0419 432 208

www.envirofact.com.au

This Report has been prepared by The Environmental Factor (TEF) on behalf of Orange City Council (OCC or Council) to describe the process undertaken to update and expand the spatial data of biodiversity assets in the Orange City Local Government Area (LGA), to create new shapefiles and metadata to be included as part of Council’s revised Local Environment Plan (LEP). This document is not intended to be utilised or relied upon by any persons other than OCC, nor to be used for any purpose other than that articulated above. Accordingly, TEF accepts no responsibility in any way whatsoever for the use of this report by any other persons or for any other purpose.

The information, statements, and commentary (together the “Information”) contained in this report have been prepared by TEF from material provided by OCC, through NSW Government provided databases and through the assessment process. TEF has not sought any independent confirmation of the reliability, accuracy or completeness of this information, outside of reviewing the provided metadata. And, while all care has been taken in validating available data against other datasets and available aerial imaging, it should not be construed that TEF has carried out any form of audit of the information which has been relied upon. Accordingly, whilst the statements made in this report are given in good faith, TEF accepts no responsibility for any errors in the information provided by OCC nor the effect of any such errors on the analysis undertaken, suggestions provided, or this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 APRIL 2024

Attachment 1 FINAL 20200818 OCC Biodiversity Mapping Expansion



Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	4
1.1	Background	4
1.1.1	Ecological values of the Orange City LGA	4
1.1.2	Current mapping availability	5
2	Methodology	7
2.1	Dataset collation	7
2.2	Gap analysis	7
2.2.1	Mapping of existing Biodiversity Assets	7
2.2.2	Identification of additional Areas of Biodiversity	7
2.2.3	Ground truthing	9
2.3	Assumptions and Limitations	9
3	Results & Recommendations	11
3.1	Results	11
3.1.1	Current situation	11
3.1.2	Predicted situation	11
3.2	Recommendations	11
4	References	12
5	Appendices	13
	Appendix A Maps of existing datasets	14
	Appendix B Revised Terrestrial Biodiversity map	19

Tables and Figures

Table 1 Existing biodiversity datasets	5
Figure 1 Stands of unmapped vegetation flagged for on- ground surveys	8
Figure 2 LEP Mapping Layer – ‘Terrestrial Biodiversity’	14
Figure 3 LEP Mapping Layer – ‘Riparian Lands and Watercourses’ and ‘Groundwater Vulnerability’	15
Figure 4 NSW OEH ‘Central Tablelands Plant Community Types’ for the Orange LGA	16
Figure 5 NSW DPI ‘Key Fish Habitat’ map for the Orange City LGA	17



Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA	
Figure 6 Native Vegetation Regulatory map for the Orange City LGA.....	18
Figure 7 Orange LGA Biodiversity Assets	19
Figure 8 Revised Terrestrial Biodiversity Map	20

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

5 APRIL 2024

Attachment 1 FINAL 20200818 OCC Biodiversity Mapping Expansion



Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

1 INTRODUCTION

In 2019, The Environmental Factor (TEF) was commissioned by Orange City Council (OCC or Council) to provide a Scoping Study to appraise existing spatial data and mapping resources available for ecological assets present within the Orange City Council (OCC or Council) Local Government Area (LGA).

TEF assisted Council to identify currently available spatial data and resources, in order to detect areas which are data deficient within the OCC LGA area. One of the findings of this study was that the Terrestrial Biodiversity layer for OCC LGA was underrepresented, with known biodiversity assets and areas of native vegetation not captured in the 2012 Local Environment Plan (LEP) mapping suite.

Consequently, desktop and on-ground assessment of potential areas of native vegetation were completed, so that these additional areas could be included in the updated Terrestrial Biodiversity layer as part of Council's revisions to the LEP in 2020.

1.1 Background

Council identified that the mapping resources from the LEP that are readily available in-house, typically used in the preliminary assessment of developments and for project planning purposes, do not match or adequately cover the known or unknown biodiversity assets within the LGA.

The Environmental Sustainable Development Community Committee, Biodiversity Reference Group held a meeting at 10 am on Thursday 7 March 2019 at Council Chambers. During the meeting it was identified that of the known biodiversity 'hotspots', patches of remnant vegetation, threatened species habitats and sighting records, and sections of riparian and waterfront land within the LGA, there were noticeable gaps in the available mapping datasets, which had the potential to put biodiversity assets at risk due to their non-representation in formal, public records.

For example, it was noted that the LEP 'Terrestrial Biodiversity' and 'Riparian Lands and Watercourses' layers did not cover all waterways in the LGA, and that records of threatened species in Orange identified through previous ecological surveys were not all represented in online databases.

Council's concern was that if these items are not accurately recorded in the public mapping system, this data was not available to guide on-ground initiatives in a strategic way. This limitation may potentially restrict Council's ability to shape future development in order to lessen the negative impact on native biota, and therefore achieve Council's goals for Ecologically Sustainable Development.

TEF collaborated with Council's planning and environmental departments to identify the drivers behind updating the dataset, noting that appropriate assessment and preservation of natural assets in the LGA was of a high priority, with areas that had already undergone heavy development to be considered for removal from the assessment trigger process.

1.1.1 Ecological values of the Orange City LGA

The Orange LGA is approximately 28,430 ha in size and contains significant patches of remnant vegetation. This vegetation connects to regionally significant conservation areas outside the LGA borders, including Mullion/Clergate State Forest and the Mullion Range State Conservation Area to the northeast, Kinross State Forest to the east, Borenore Karst Conservation Reserve to the west, and Mount Canobolas to the south.

The LGA is dissected with numerous named waterways and waterbodies, each of which have ecological values and associated legislative protections under the *Water Management Act 2000* (WM Act) and/or the *Fisheries Management Act 1997* (FM Act). Waterways are known biodiversity hotspots, as they naturally provide connectivity in the landscape, as well as habitat and foraging resources for native species. Waterways in the Orange LGA are numerous, and include:



Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

- Blackmans Swamp Creek
- Summer Hill Creek
- Ploughmans Creek
- Golding Creek
- Broken Shaft Creek
- Brandy Creek
- Gosling Creek
- Spring Creek
- Flyers Creek
- East Orange Creek
- Emu Swamp Creek
- Bell River
- Jenny Lind Creek
- Dairy Creek

Reservoirs

- Suma Park
- Gosling Creek Reserve, and
- Spring Creek

Though it should be noted that in addition to the above list, there are also many unnamed waterways and tributaries in Orange.

There are also significant roadside vegetation tracts, Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) and patches of remnant vegetation on private land that add to the mosaic of native flora and fauna habitats in the area.

1.1.2 Current mapping availability

Currently, biodiversity mapping for the Orange City LGA is available but not comprehensive, combined, available in one location, or easy to manipulate.

A summary of the available datasets applicable to biodiversity is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Existing biodiversity datasets

Source	Description of Dataset
Orange City Local Environment Plan (LEP)	Terrestrial Biodiversity
	Riparian Lands and Watercourses
NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)	Central Tablelands Plant Community Types
	Bionet Threatened Species Atlas (licensed access)
	Biodiversity Values Map
NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI)	Key Fish Habitat

the environmental factor

Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

Source	Description of Dataset
SIX Maps	Cadastre (roads, rails, hydrolines, LGA boundary)
	Topography
Local Lands Services (LLS)	Native Vegetation Regulatory Map



Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

2 METHODOLOGY

The following chapters describe the methodology used to update the Terrestrial Biodiversity dataset for OCC for the 2020 LEP update.

2.1 Dataset collation

Each of the typical dataset gateways were accessed, including the NSW Planning Portal at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au to obtain the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Riparian Lands and Watercourses datasets; the NSW Government SEED Portal at www.seed.nsw.gov.au to obtain Plant Community Types maps and, SIX Maps at <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/> for the cadastre and topographic (roads, rail, hydrolines and the LGA boundary) datasets. Key Fish Habitat shapefiles were provided directly to TEF by DPI Fisheries.

Once sourced, each dataset was then imported into the GIS software, and clipped to the Orange LGA – this limits the dataset to the prescribed area, rather than showing all data available across NSW.

2.2 Gap analysis

2.2.1 Mapping of existing Biodiversity Assets

Once all datasets were imported and clipped, each was laid over the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Riparian Lands and Watercourses LEP layers to identify areas of riparian and terrestrial biodiversity not already represented in the LEP maps.

A1 size maps of each of the available datasets was produced (Appendix A) to enable a clear ‘at a glance’ set of asset maps for the whole LGA. A new layer was then created by selecting features that were not already present on the Terrestrial Biodiversity and Riparian Lands and Watercourses layers. The new layer was then created of an amalgamation of the following datasets:

- EPI Terrestrial Biodiversity
- EPI Riparian Lands and Watercourses
- DPI Key Fish Habitat, and
- Central Tablelands SVM PCTs.

The above datasets were selected for their relevance, and for the biodiversity asset data they contained in addition to the existing LEP layers. A map was then created to compare and contrast the datasets.

2.2.2 Identification of additional Areas of Biodiversity

This combined map was overlain onto current Google Earth imagery and the LGA was divided into quarters (NW, NE, SW, SE). TEF staff used Google Earth functions to flag any patches of vegetation which were not already represented by the mapping.

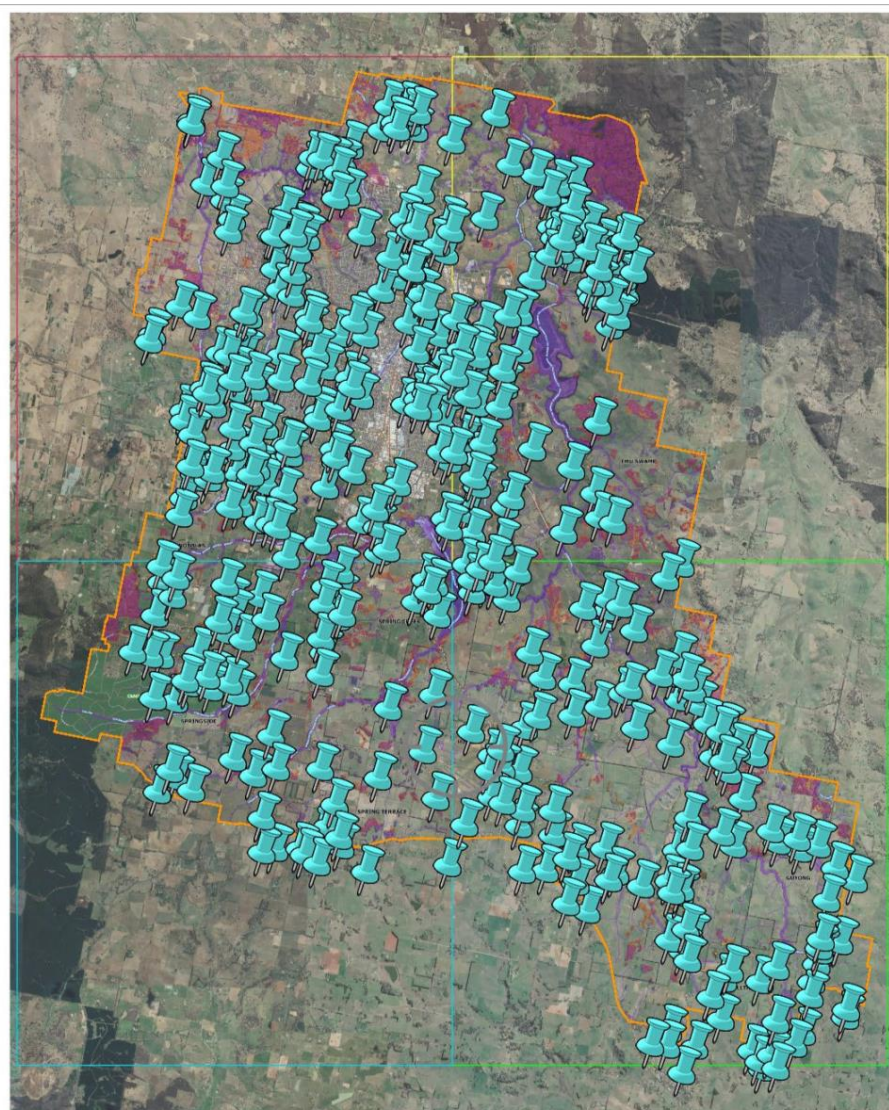
In total, 424 points were identified for ground-truthing; any stands of vegetation within the LGA which fell outside of the existing Biodiversity Assets layers (described in Section 2.2.1) were flagged (Figure 1).

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5 APRIL 2024

Attachment 1 FINAL 20200818 OCC Biodiversity Mapping Expansion

Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA



Orange LGA Biodiversity Assets

Legend

Locality

- Orange City LGA

Roads

- Arterial Road
- Local Road
- Footpath
- Primary Road
- Sub-Arterial Road
- Track/Service Lane

Other

- Other Service Lane

Other

- Other Service Lane

Other

- Other Service Lane

LGA Divisions

- North West
- North East
- South West
- South East



Figure 1 Stands of unmapped vegetation flagged for on- ground surveys

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5 APRIL 2024

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Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

2.2.3 Ground truthing

TEF staff undertook the ground-truthing surveys in May – June 2020. Surveys involved a person in a vehicle travelling through the four quarters in the LGA, systematically identifying and checking off areas flagged during the desktop investigation. *Avenza Maps version 3.7.2 Build (483) ARCH64* was used on a smartphone to navigate to the desktop-identified sites. Any patches not able to be identified from the road were viewed from the closest possible distance without entering private property. Any incidental patches of vegetation were also recorded.

Once at the patch of vegetation, a point was created within *Avenza Maps* and the following details were recorded as well as at least one photograph per site:

- GPS location
- Approximate patch size
- Native or non-native and any identifiable flora species or brief description.

A total of 397 sites were visited during the ground-surveys. Whilst undertaking the ground-truthing, time and logistical limitations focused the data collection to exclude patches within the urban zone of Orange that were not of a significant size. It was determined that smaller patches within a highly urbanized area would have a high likelihood of being comprised of non-native species with low-medium habitat values. In addition, it was determined that the reconfiguration of urban house/ street vegetation would have an overall neutral impact.

2.3 Assumptions and Limitations

The following rules were applied to the data included in the final updated Terrestrial Biodiversity mapping suite, which dictate the completeness of the final dataset:

1. That these layers were included in the final map as they are found in the SEED portal
 - EPI Terrestrial Biodiversity
 - EPI Riparian Lands and Watercourses
 - Central Tablelands SVM PCT version 4778
2. That this layer was included as provided under agreement from NSW DPI Fisheries
 - DPI Fisheries Key Fish Habitat
3. That 2nd order waterways, according to the Strahler method of stream order classification, not included in the EPI Riparian Lands and Watercourses or Key Fish Habitat datasets, were selected from
 - Department of Finance, Services and Innovation Digital Topographic Database Clip and Ship 'Hydrolines' dataset, and
 - Assigned a buffer of 20 m to account for the Riparian Corridor width for 2nd order waterways
4. That all other waterways (1st order waterways and hydrolines) were omitted from inclusion
5. That other areas that were excluded from the above datasets, that were then highlighted and confirmed via ground-truthing to contain native vegetation, were included as
 - TEF Verified Native Vegetation 2020

The following assumptions and limitations also contributed to the final dataset:

- The Biodiversity Values Map dataset was not included as part of the updated Terrestrial Biodiversity dataset, as this may change every 90 days, and will still need to be consulted by prospective developers for each application.

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5 APRIL 2024

Attachment 1 FINAL 20200818 OCC Biodiversity Mapping Expansion



Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

- Potential native vegetation in heavily urbanized areas within Orange were not investigated closely or included, due to the size of the patches in varying scales (i.e. not visible beyond a scale of 1:500), and the assumed disturbed nature of developed sites.
- The Native Vegetation Regulatory Map for the Orange LGA was not incorporated into the updated Terrestrial Biodiversity mapping (Appendix B) as it primarily reflects the land zoning across the Orange LGA with no sensitive regulatory lands currently nominated within the Orange LGA.
- Additionally, the available LEP mapping layers 'Flood Prone Land', 'Drinking Water Catchments', and 'Strategic Agricultural Land' were also assessed as part of preliminary investigations undertaken for the scoping study; however, these layers were not included as they did not add to the existing biodiversity features and/or they did not include areas of remnant native vegetation or native species habitats or records.
- While all efforts were made to identify all previously unmarked vegetation, some stands may have been overlooked due to the scale of the project, due to physical restrictions (i.e. not visible from the road or on private property).
- The LGA was split into quarters to make it easier to navigate during on-ground surveys, however some vegetation, particularly that on private land may remain unaccounted for.



Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

3 RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Results

3.1.1 Current situation

Currently, OCC has LEP maps available for Terrestrial Biodiversity and Riparian Lands and Watercourses, amongst other primary planning, 'protection' and 'hazard' mapping layers which assist Council with undertaking its duties as the Determining Authority for the majority of developments within the LGA.

Additional datasets are available for Plant Community Types and Key Fish Habitats.

However, the LEP maps have notable gaps, and the additional datasets are not readily available in Council's internal mapping system, meaning that strategic planning for biodiversity projects and preliminary impact assessments for developments can be difficult.

3.1.2 Predicted situation

Updating of the Orange LEP to comprehensively depict biodiversity assets within the LGA, will help to ensure that these assets will receive adequate protections in the face of future proposed developments. This especially relates to threatened species, communities and their habitats, as few species records are available for the LGA, despite past survey effort.

Also, as existing and future developments are implemented, this renewed representation will ensure previously unrecorded assets are afforded adequate protection, aiding in their conservation.

A map of the collated existing datasets, entitled 'Orange LGA Biodiversity Assets' is provided as Figure 7 in Appendix B.

3.2 Recommendations

TEF has sourced, filtered, and combined all relevant and available data relating to biodiversity assets within the Orange LGA to be combined into a revised Terrestrial Biodiversity dataset.

It is recommended that Council review the dataset, and if appropriate to their needs, adopt it for inclusion in the 2020 revision of the Orange LEP.

Given there are still gaps in the dataset, it is recommended that every DA submitted to Council for consideration be subjected to a desktop assessment of the new Terrestrial Biodiversity mapping, as well as the following resources to more comprehensively determine if further ecological investigation is required for any particular site:

- Bionet Wildlife Atlas
- Protected Matters Search Tool
- Koala Habitat SEPP
- Native Vegetation Regulatory Map, and
- Biodiversity Values Map.

Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA



4 REFERENCES

NSW Planning Portal at www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au

OEH, NSW Government SEED Portal at www.seed.nsw.gov.au

NSW DFI SIX Maps Clip and Ship at <https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/clipnship.html>

OEH, The NSW Bionet Atlas at www.bionet.nsw.gov.au

DPI Fisheries for the Key Fish Habitat shapefiles; kindly provided by David Ward, Fisheries Manager,
DPI Fisheries - Aquatic Environment, Department of Primary Industries

LLS	Native	Vegetation	Regulatory	Map
https://www.lmbc.nsw.gov.au/Maps/index.html?viewer=NVRMap				

OEH Biodiversity Values Map <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-values-map.htm>

Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA



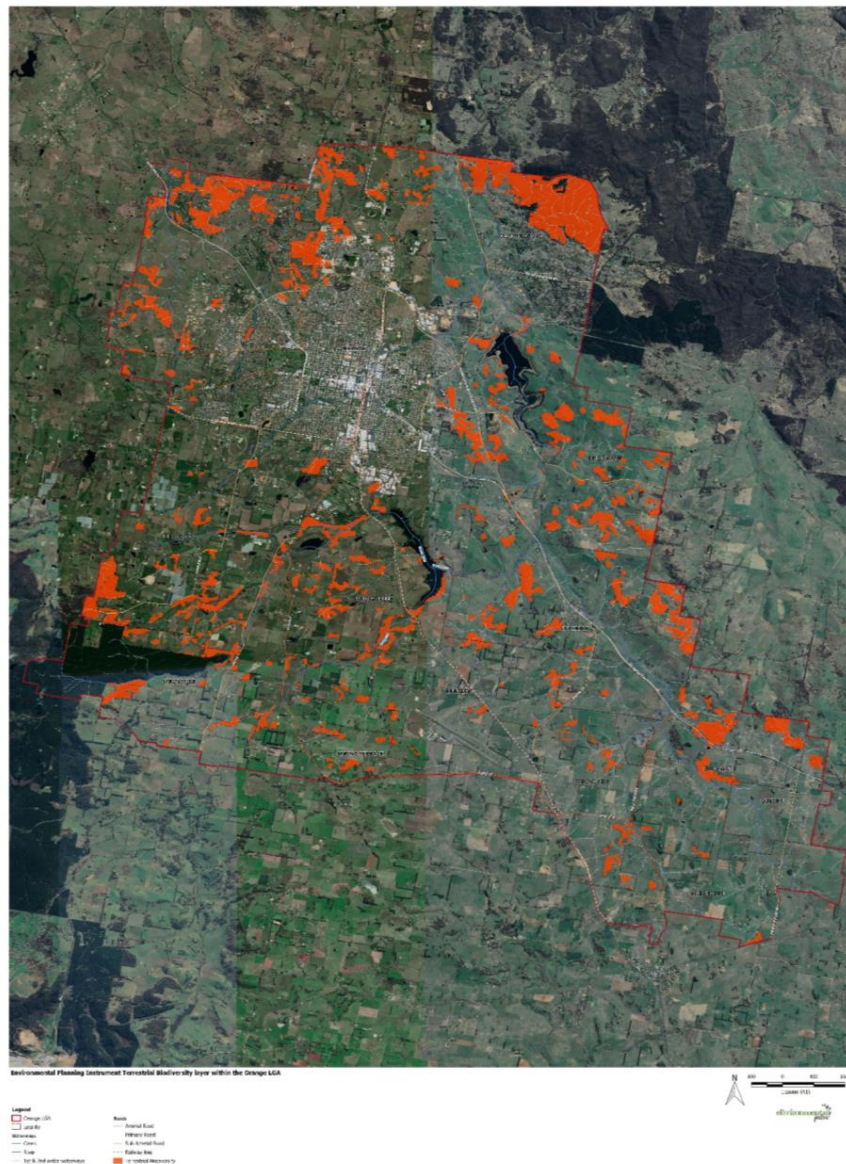
5 APPENDICES

Appendix	Item
Appendix A	<div>Maps of existing datasets, including:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Figure 2 LEP Mapping Layer – ‘Terrestrial Biodiversity’• Figure 3 LEP Mapping Layer – ‘Riparian Lands and Watercourses’ and ‘Groundwater Vulnerability’• Figure 4 NSW OEH ‘Central Tablelands Plant Community Types’ for the Orange LGA• Figure 5 NSW DPI ‘Key Fish Habitat’ map for the Orange City LGA• Figure 6 Native Vegetation Regulatory map for the Orange City LGA
Appendix B	<div>Revised ‘Biodiversity Assets’ map</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Figure 7 Orange LGA Biodiversity Assets• Figure 8 Revised Terrestrial Biodiversity Map

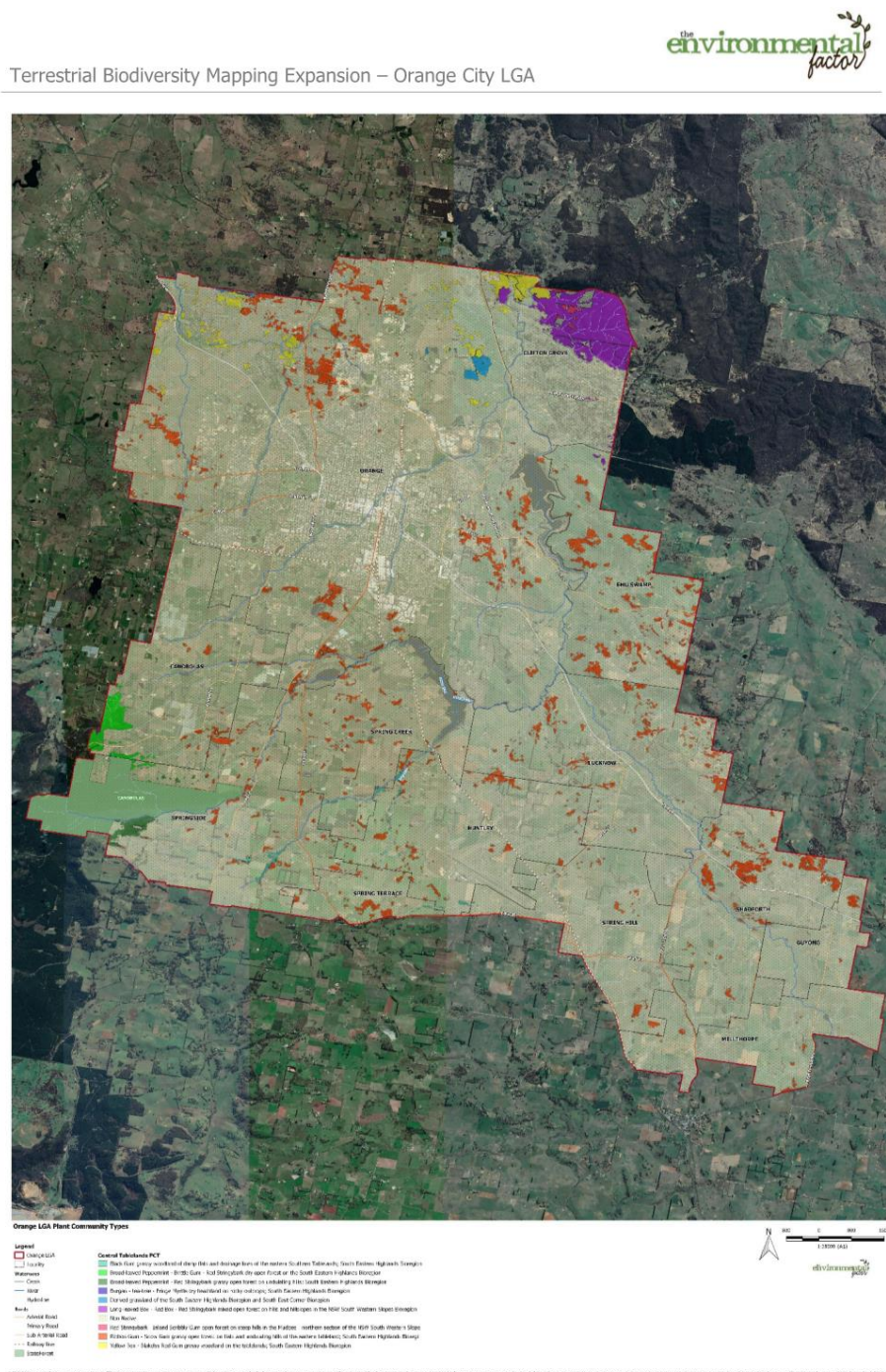


Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

Appendix A Maps of existing datasets







Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

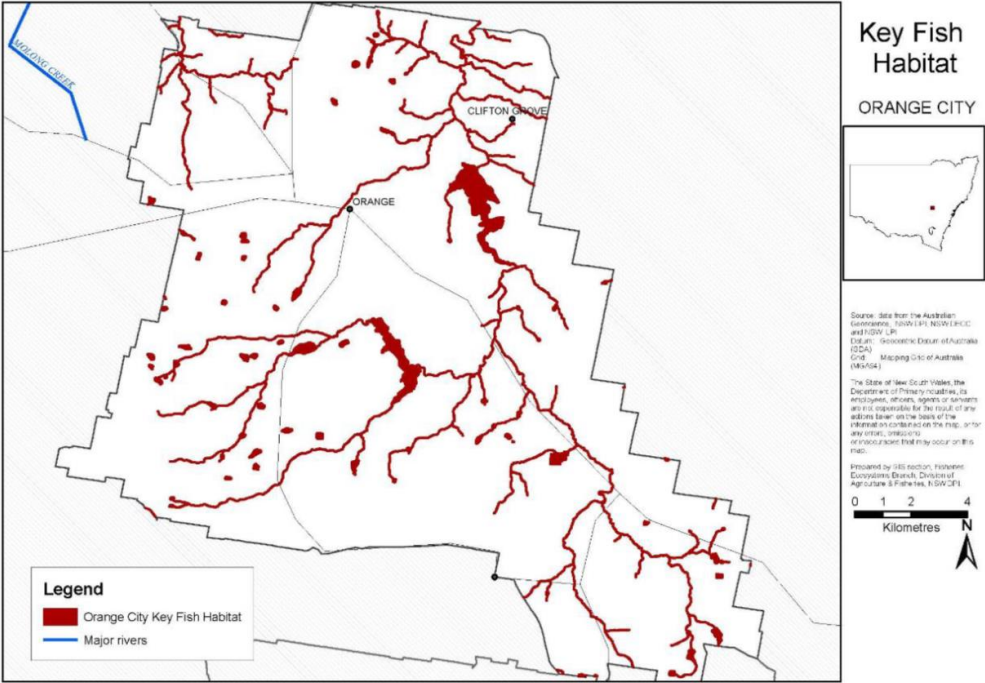


Figure 5 NSW DPI ‘Key Fish Habitat’ map for the Orange City LGA

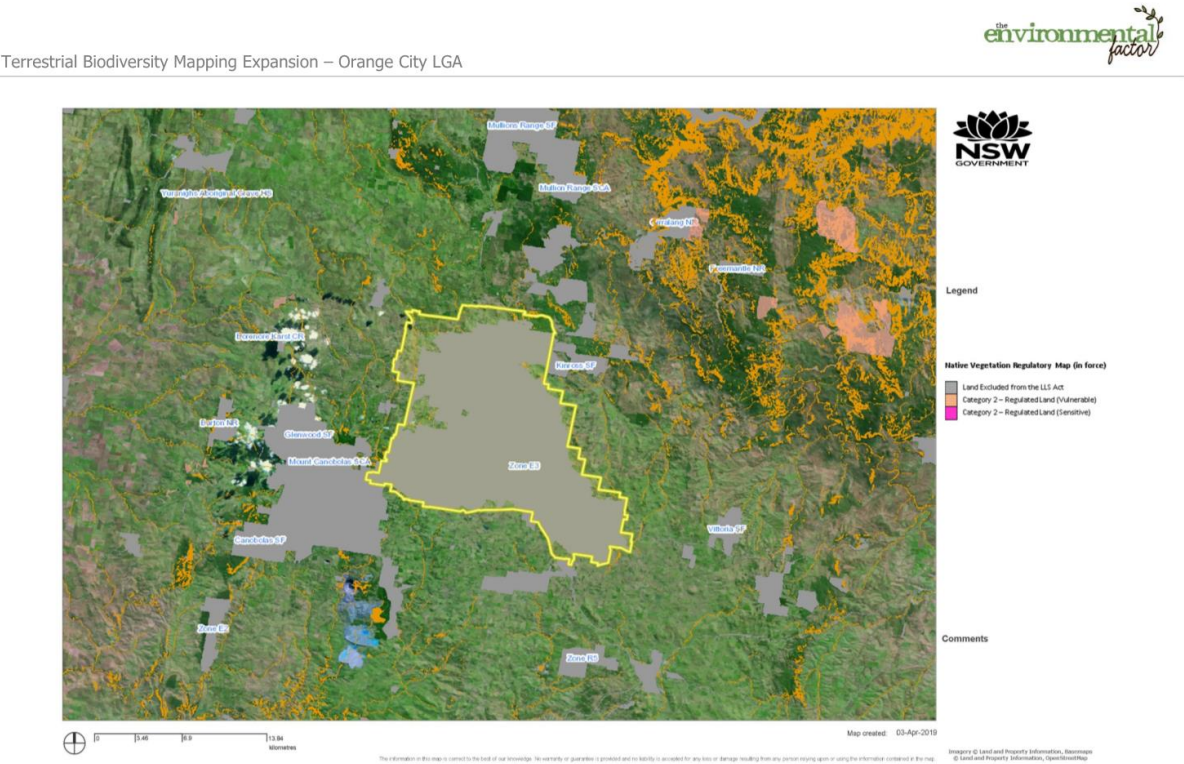


Figure 6 Native Vegetation Regulatory map for the Orange City LGA



Appendix B Revised Terrestrial Biodiversity mapping

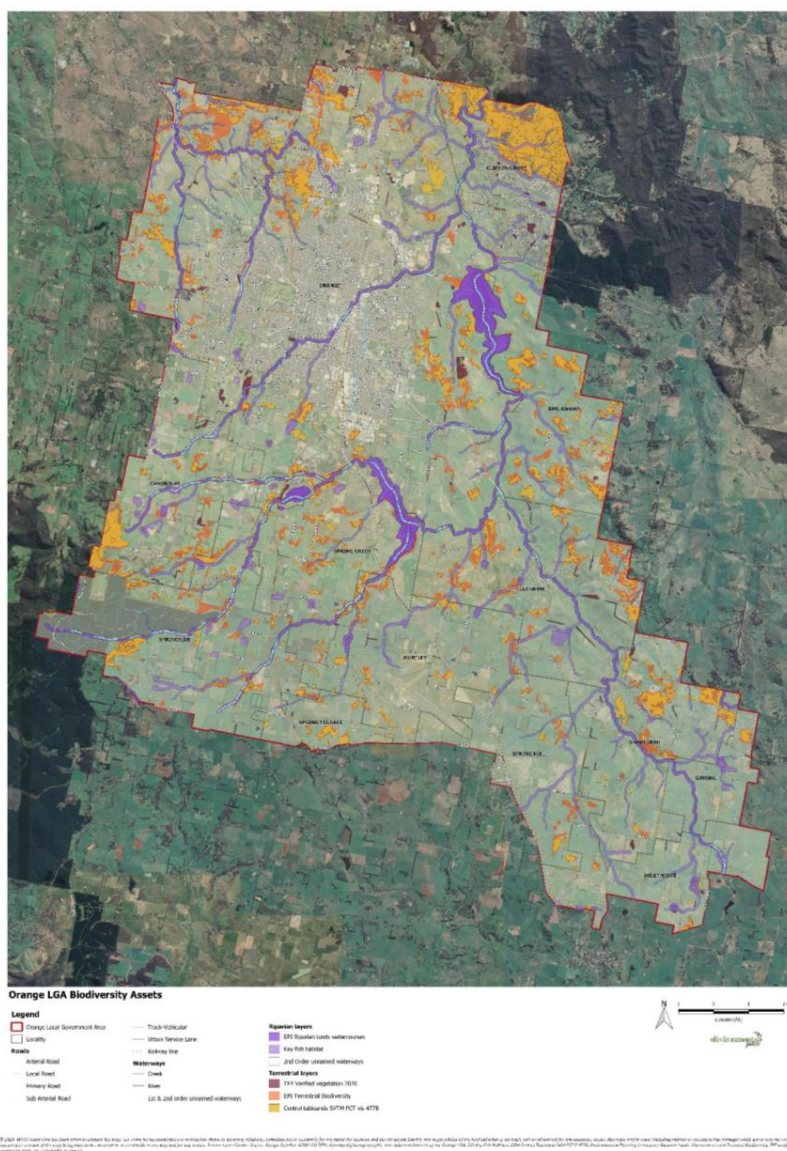


Figure 7 Orange LGA Biodiversity Assets



Terrestrial Biodiversity Mapping Expansion – Orange City LGA

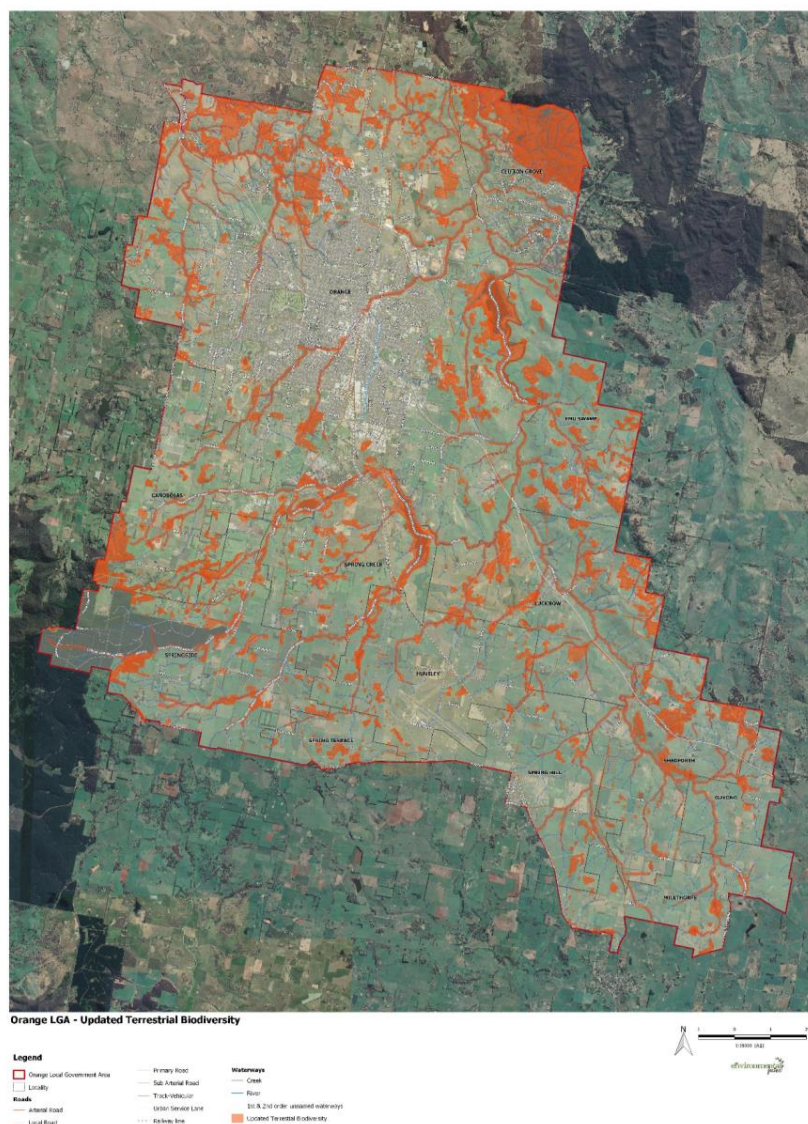


Figure 8 Revised Terrestrial Biodiversity Map

3.4 GREAT SOUTHERN BIOBLITZ 2024

RECORD NUMBER: 2024/415
AUTHOR: Eli Todman, Sustainability Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Great Southern BioBlitz is a 4-day event held every Spring in the Southern Hemisphere. The observation window for this year’s event will be 20th – 23rd September. This is an opportunity to discuss involvement from the ESCC.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “9.2. Develop and promote initiatives to reduce water, energy and waste in consultation with the community”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Sustainability Community Committee acknowledge the report on the Great Southern Bioblitz 2024.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation’s impact on Council’s service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION


The Great Southern BioBlitz (GSB) is a 4-day event run every Spring in the Southern Hemisphere. GSB will be held from Friday 20th until Monday 23rd September 2024. The purpose of the event is to encourage people to engage with the natural environment that surrounds us all, and at the same time produce valuable observation records of species that can be used by scientists in their research.

Any observations are uploaded to iNaturalist during the observation window and count towards the BioBlitz totals.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Great Southern Bioblitz 2024, D24/28973





So, how do I get involved?

To contribute to the event, all you need to do is download the [iNaturalist](#) application to your handheld device or make an account on your computer and make an observation(s) between 20 - 23 September 2024.

After this date, you will have 14 days to upload and identify your observations (until 7th October).

Don't worry if you cant identify the organism. Just make sure you get some good clear photos or sounds.

register as a GSB participant

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5 APRIL 2024

Attachment 1 Great Southern Bioblitz 2024

Can I participate anywhere?

First and foremost, all observations must be made somewhere in the southern hemisphere during the event.

Participating areas

Each area can register its Local Government Area (LGA) (this may have another name in your region), provided no one else has already this area. Areas can also be made of several LGAs that have combined resources.

On the iNaturalist platform, an LGA may be made up of one or more preloaded shapefiles. You can also upload separate files - your local council should be able to do this.

iNaturalist Nodes

The platform has several nodes that upload the collected data to a national database. With that in mind, it's best to use your local 'Node' (see below) if there is no node in your area then use iNaturalist.org.

[iNaturalist Australia](#)

Use this node in Australia

