



Alexandrina Council

Environmental Action Plan Summary

2014–2018

THRIVE IN CLEAN GREEN FUTURES



Our region



Alexandrina Council is known nationally and internationally as a region of environmental importance. We are blessed to live adjacent to the Coorong and Lower Lakes Ramsar Wetland and to swim in clean beaches backed by coastal dunes. Further inland, our district boasts a wide range of habitats including mallee, eucalyptus woodlands and stringybark forests. The natural beauty of our region is one of the key features attracting people to live and holiday here.

The Alexandrina Council district is highly diverse, covering an area of 1800 square kilometres. We are located on the Fleurieu Peninsula, in the south-western corner of the Murray-Darling Basin. Extending inland from the coast and river, the Angas Plains rise into the foothills of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges. Our district contains the Bremer, Angas and Finniss River catchments along with Tookayerta Creek, all of which drain towards and into Lake Alexandrina.

Though we are rich in natural assets, our environment continues to face a range of challenges and threats. Our current population of approximately 25,400 people is forecast to grow by over 30% to 33,130 by 2031, over which time more than 4000 new homes will need to be built. Our future climate is predicted to be warmer and drier bringing rising sea levels and more extreme weather events such as bushfires and heatwaves. Forward-thinking urban planning and conservation measures will be critical to ensure that, despite these changes, we are able to reduce our environmental footprint, protect existing natural areas and indeed, allow for their extent to increase.

Successfully protecting and improving our local environment will rest on the collective commitment and cooperation of Council, our residents, local businesses and regional partners. The overwhelming level of community support for this Plan stands us in good stead and we look forward to working with you to help create a cleaner, greener future for our community.

Thanks

We give thanks to the many people who contributed their passion, knowledge and ideas during preparation of this Plan.

Aspiration

THRIVE IN CLEAN GREEN FUTURES

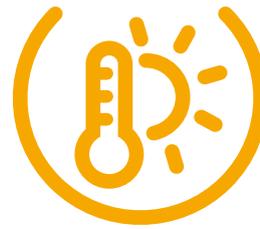
Goals



**PROTECTING
OUR WATER
RESOURCES**



**ENHANCING
BIODIVERSITY**



**PROGRESSIVELY
ADDRESSING
CLIMATE CHANGE**



**LIVING
LOCAL**

Strategies

- Minimise Council water use
- Maximise the re-use of rainwater, stormwater and wastewater
- Promote water sensitive development
- Maintain and enhance the health of waterways
- Provide community leadership

- Build our knowledge
- Protect and enhance remnant vegetation
- Connect habitat and restore degraded areas
- Improve urban biodiversity
- Protect and enhance coastal biodiversity
- Be a responsible land manager
- Engage our community and develop partnerships

- Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions
- Identify and assess impacts, risks and opportunities
- Build resilience
- Plan for sustainable growth
- Provide community leadership

- Manage our waste sustainably
- Promote sustainable food
- Green our organisation
- Inform and engage our community
- Care for Aboriginal culture and country

Measuring our progress

- Council mains water use
- Total community mains water use
- Community per capita mains water use
- Volume of stormwater and wastewater reuse

- Area of actively managed remnant vegetation
- Area of actively managed revegetation
- Area of actively managed urban biodiversity reserves
- Number of community groups undertaking biodiversity works on Council land

- Council greenhouse gas emissions
- Council Adaptation Plan endorsed and actions implemented
- Extent of community knowledge re climate change impacts, risks and adaptation options

- Total waste to landfill
- Total diversion of waste from landfill
- Diversion rate of residential kerbside waste (%)
- Proportion of residents satisfied with Council's environmental performance
- Number of volunteers/ attendees at Council environmental events

About the Plan

Alexandrina Council recognises that all Council activities have an impact on the environment and that our community expects us to lead by example in the way we conduct our operations. Council can also help to foster a strong sense of environmental stewardship amongst our staff, residents, business community and visitors by educating and encouraging them to care for our local environment.

The Environmental Action Plan 2014–2018 provides an overview of Council’s past achievements and prioritises our future environmental management activities, with a focus on reducing Council’s footprint, protecting and enhancing environmental assets under Council’s care and control, fostering sustainable development and collaborating with our community.

Each chapter contains a number of strategies and key performance indicators (KPIs) against which we will measure our progress. The details of how the Plan will be implemented over the next four years are contained in action tables that support each strategy.

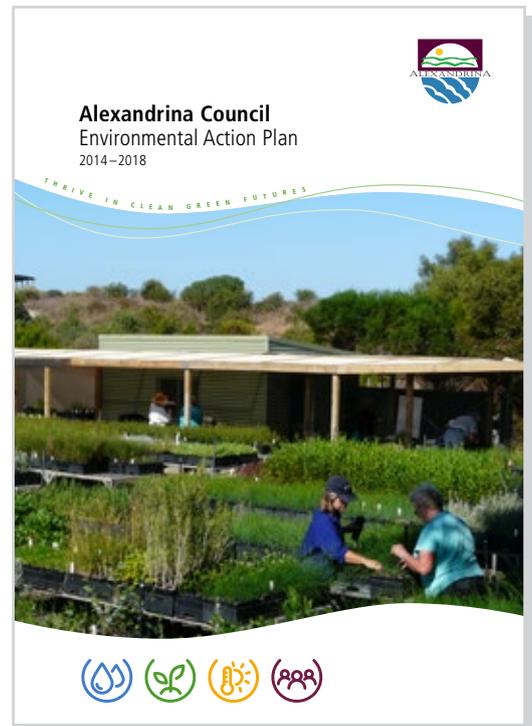
Actions are prioritised according to timeframe (i.e. short term, medium term and long term). Some of the high priority actions include:

- Working with developers to ensure that wherever practicable all new irrigated public open space is maintained using alternatives to potable mains water.
- Amending our Development Plan to require that all new houses install a minimum 5000L rainwater tank.

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or email alex@alexandrina.sa.gov.au**



- Creation of an in-house Biodiversity Team to increase the area of Council land actively managed for conservation.
- Developing a region-wide vision for reconnecting the landscape by undertaking works on Council reserves, roadsides and unmade roads.
- Undertaking a Coastal Hazard Study to identify the coastal areas and infrastructure most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- Working with developers, builders and landowners to encourage green building design and construction.
- Recognising, rewarding and celebrating community action via environmental grants and awards.
- Establishing an Environmental Advisory Group to provide advice to Council on implementation of this Plan.

Progress against the Plan will be publicly reported on an annual basis. A review of the Plan will be undertaken in 2018 with a further 5-year plan developed for the period 2019–2023.