

Sustainability Strategy

2021-2031

Balancing economic, social and environmental factors to support the achievement of our future environmental objectives



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Noongar people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to this region.





Contents

4	Executive Summary
6	Key Principles & Objectives
8	Shire Overview
12	Climate Change Impacts
14	Our Commitment
15	Baseline Data 2020
16	Our Approach: One Planet Living Framework
18	Resourcing Monitoring & Evaluation
19	Ten Pillars of Sustainability
20	The Process
21	Working With Community
22	Community Consultation Findings
23	References Appendices

Executive Summary

The delivery of the Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy is driven by dedicated and forward-thinking Councillors and citizens who understand the commitment that is needed to change the way we do things, in order for us to live within the means of this planet.

The purpose of the Sustainability Strategy is to make the Shire of Denmark an organisation which positively contributes to the genuine sustainability of our world.

It does this in two primary ways. Firstly, it will seek to guide the Shire of Denmark as an organisation in developing actions, policies and procedures to make the organisation sustainable. Secondly it will guide the Shire of Denmark in how and where it can assist and support the broader Denmark community to become more sustainable.

For the purposes of this Strategy, the Shire adopts the following definition of sustainability: "...the integration of environmental health, social equity and economic vitality in order to create thriving, healthy, diverse and resilient communities for this generation and generations to come. The practice of sustainability recognises how these issues are interconnected and requires a systems approach and an acknowledgement of complexity." (UCLA, 2021).

There are many dimensions to meeting this definition and achieving our purpose. We need to reduce our Greenhouse Gas Emissions, we need to preserve and enhance our natural environment and biodiversity, we need to ensure there are opportunities for people to live healthy, fulfilling lives. To manage these needs and our response to them we have chosen to employ Bioregional's One Planet Living Framework.

The principles of the One Planet Living Framework will ensure that the Shire's key sustainability principles and objectives are embedded in the actions we take across our organisation. The principles and objectives form a critical part of annual operational planning and guide the leadership we need to show on how to achieve a more sustainable way of living.

The challenges that we face will require us to be innovative, future thinkers, and to rise to the task of taking the sometimes more challenging path.

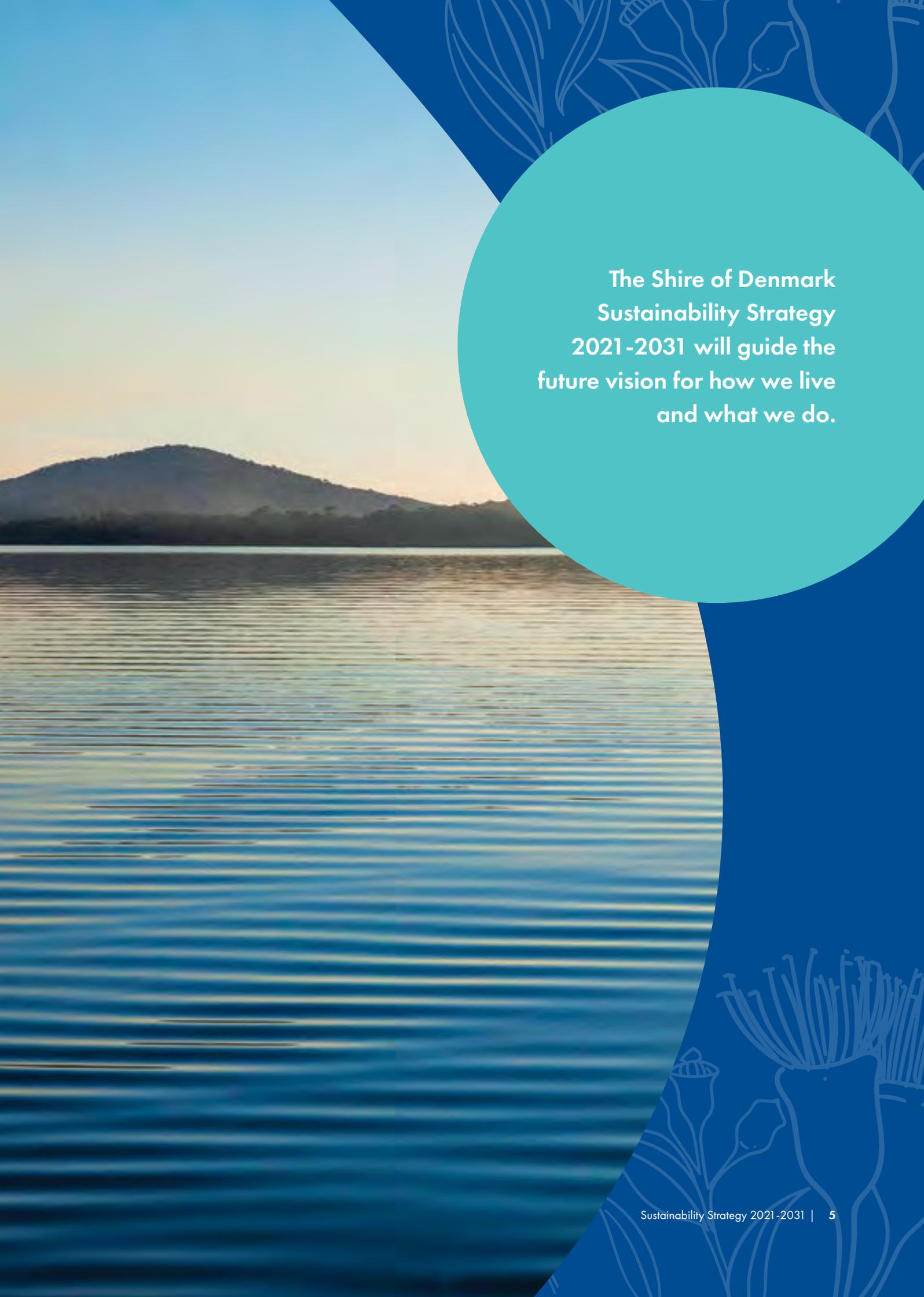
The Shire of Denmark is taking a holistic approach to building a sustainable environment. Our environment includes the spaces we play in and the places we build. It's how we get around and the community around us. It's where we work, where we live and the natural areas around us.

The goal of this Sustainability Strategy is to preserve everything that makes Denmark a special place to live even as it grows, whilst meeting the needs of future generations through environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity. The Shire of Denmark recognises the importance of preserving Denmark's natural environment and ensuring retention of Denmark's sense of identity whilst providing for demands from an increased population into the future.

The Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy 2021-2031 will guide the future vision for how we live and what we do. It is intended as a guide for sustainable management of internal Shire operations, as well as a broader guide for facilitating sustainable development initiatives within the Denmark community. A sustainable future will involve collaborative partnerships between local government and the community to ensure optimal and innovative ways of achieving sustainable development and growth within our Shire. "Partnerships are central to the process of sustainability. Government, business and the community will need to find new ways of working together to achieve our common aim." (State Sustainability Strategy, 2003).

Sustainability means balancing economic, social and environmental factors and setting out key environmental priorities for the future. The goal for the Shire of Denmark is to achieve best sustainable practice through ten key sustainability pillars based on the One Planet Living Framework. The ten pillars provide a holistic view that will help guide sustainable governance principles, Shire operations and community-oriented initiatives. Following consultation with the community and key stakeholders the following guiding principles and objectives were identified for the ten sustainability pillars to direct decision-making into the future.

The Shire of Denmark is taking a holistic approach to building a sustainable environment.



**The Shire of Denmark
Sustainability Strategy
2021-2031 will guide the
future vision for how we live
and what we do.**

Sustainability Strategy

Key Principles & Objectives

Sustainability Pillar	Key Principle	Objectives
01 Health & Happiness	Building the well-being of our people is important for the long-term health of our community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Foster and encourage an active, healthy and happy workforce. 1.2 Support human-centred design principles in current and future public spaces, streetscapes and neighbourhoods. 1.3 Prioritise investment in community initiatives to improve health, well-being and community connection. 1.4 Support initiatives that create connected communities with key service areas.
02 Equity & Local Economy	We value the local economy and want to optimise how all members of our community can benefit from sustainable investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Commit to supporting local economy through all Shire operations. 2.2 Support the community to promote a circular economy and buy local philosophy. 2.3 Advocate and support attracting businesses with a shared vision in sustainable transformation to Denmark, including eco-tourism.
03 Culture & Community	We value our community's cultural knowledge and sharing this with future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Build a skilled, confident, and knowledgeable workforce who can positively respond to the challenges of sustainability and climate change. 3.2 Commit to a culture of sustainability embedded into all Council activities led by the Shire Executive. 3.3 Promote sustainable best practice within the broader community. 3.4 Work collaboratively with the indigenous population and develop best practice indigenous engagement and recognition strategies. 3.5 Work with our young people to develop a vibrant youth space in our community. 3.6 Embrace inclusivity and ensure availability and access of infrastructure and services to all minority groups including disadvantaged, and people with disabilities. 3.7 Promote partnerships with not-for-profits to deliver Shire activities and assist with infrastructure requirements that support sustainable principles. 3.8 Establish a community volunteering model that will provide long-term support to community groups.
04 Land & Nature	We will protect and enhance our natural systems that are vital to the sustainability of our local community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Implement responsible and sustainable practices through policy development and land-use planning. 4.2 Prioritise protection of natural bushland habitats and ecosystems, including protection of waterways for nutrient control in agriculture, salinity control, riparian vegetation. 4.3 Revegetate and rehabilitate degraded environments. 4.4 Support provision of education to the broader community on protection of the natural environment.



Sustainability Pillar	Key Principle	Objectives
05 Sustainable Water	A sustainable water approach seeks to manage the threat to the supply and quality of water resources for our community while also seeking to minimise usage.	5.1 Enact water usage minimisation strategies for Shire operations. 5.2 Promote incorporation of waterwise usage into land-use planning and for new developments. 5.3 Support initiatives that promote waterwise use in the community. 5.4 Provide education to the community on waterwise use.
06 Local & Sustainable Food	A sustainable food system that focuses on the production, processing, distribution, and disposal of health food to the community in ways that contribute to the health of the local economy.	6.1 Enable a local circular economy. 6.2 Support businesses seeking to develop food production facilities. 6.3 Support sustainable farming practices. 6.4 Support programs for local sustainable food innovations.
07 Sustainable Travel & Transport	Sustainable or Green Transport aims to limit the reliance on diminishing natural resources that leave a high carbon footprint.	7.1 Reduce the carbon footprint for the fleet of corporate vehicles. 7.2 Planning developments to include infrastructure and design considerations for alternate modes of transport. 7.3 Fund innovative technologies for sustainable and green transport options. 7.4 Promote programs that will see reduced reliance on fossil fuel transport. 7.5 Support adaptation to sustainable best practice transport options in the community.
08 Sustainable Materials & Products	Sustainable Materials aim to have a limited negative impact on people and natural resources and do not deplete or degrade the environment.	8.1 Investigate and invest in local circular economy infrastructure to enable resources to be kept in use for as long as possible. 8.2 Promote the development of local sustainable materials made from renewable or waste resources. 8.3 Support local businesses who seek to develop sustainable materials made from renewable or waste resources. 8.4 Encourage the community to embrace the notion of re-use of materials rather than purchase of new materials.
09 Zero Waste	The Shire seeks to embrace the role of a leader in the community by minimising waste.	9.1 Aim for zero waste to landfill by 2030. 9.2 Aim for zero wastewater to natural waterways by 2030. 9.3 Implement best-practice in relation to waste management to reduce waste going to landfill. 9.4 Support the building industry in reducing waste through re-use and recycling.
10 Zero Carbon Energy	Committing to working towards a net zero emissions target is an important step in tackling climate change.	10.1 Embrace the role of a leader in the community by reducing carbon emissions. 10.2 Aim for the Shire to reduce carbon emissions by half by 2030, and carbon neutral/net zero emissions by 2050. 10.3 Support community projects and industry that promote renewable energy resource use.

Shire Overview

The Shire of Denmark is located on the South Coast of Western Australia, approximately 400km south of Perth.

It is comprised of an area the size of 1860km², with a coastline covering 84km, is one of 34 biodiversity global hotspots and is an area of high conservation value due to the level of species richness and endemism.

The Shire boasts a wide variety of vegetation types, and is particularly renowned for its magnificent stands of tall Karri trees (*Eucalyptus diversicolor*). The mean summer daytime temperature is 26 degrees Celsius and winter daytime temperatures average 16 degrees C. Summer rainfall mean is 22mm and winter mean precipitation is more than 150mm with an average annual rainfall in excess of 1000mm.



Average min and max temperatures in Albany, Australia

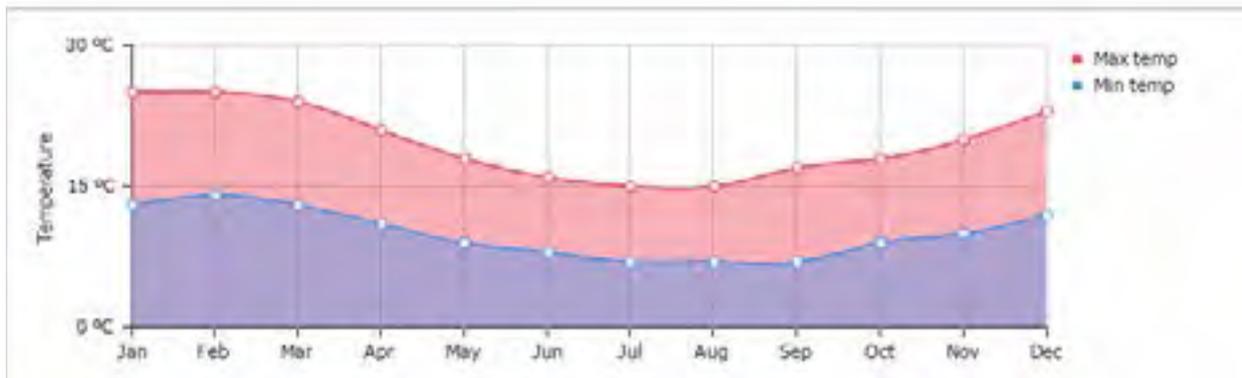


Figure 1: Denmark Average Day and Night Temperature, Weather & Climate (2021).

Average precipitation (rain/snow) in Albany, Australia



Figure 2: Denmark Monthly Precipitation, Weather & Climate (2021).

Community Profile

The Shire of Denmark is home to a passionate, diverse community which resides across the four town sites of Denmark, Peaceful Bay, Bow Bridge and Nornalup.

Local industries include agriculture, education, health services, cottage industries, hospitality, tourism, fishing, aquaculture, building and trades, earthmoving and construction industries, mechanical services, healing and well-being, organics, viticulture, artisans and crafts, and environmental research and sustainability. (Community Strategic Plan 2027).

Other local attractions include boutique breweries and wineries, restaurants and cafes, art galleries and studios, historic museum, a nature-based adventure park, and animal and exotic bird and reptile parks. (Community Strategic Plan 2027).

Natural Attractions & Activities

There are 121 Shire reserves located within and vested with the Shire of Denmark, with 80 reserves having some degree of natural resource management input required to maintain biodiversity and environmental values. The purpose of these reserves range from conservation, public recreation, parkland management and resource extraction (gravel and sand). Of these 80 reserves, 12 are classed as A-class reserves which secures a higher level of protection of the natural and/or community values.

National Parks are important for their biodiversity values, heritage value and tourism and include William Bay National Park, Mount Lindesay National Park, Walpole-Nornalup National Park, Quarram Nature Reserve and Kordabup Nature Reserve. These National Parks offer wildflower attractions, hiking trails, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing and 4WDing opportunities such as the Bibbulmun Track, Munda Biddi, Wilderness Ocean Walk trail; Valley of the Giants Treetop walk, and cycle and 4WD trails. Natural coastal attractions include Greens Pool, Madfish Bay, Waterfall Beach, Ocean Beach, Lights Beach, Parry Beach, and Peaceful Bay.

Demographic Profile

The Shire of Denmark community profile demographic analysis utilising 2016 census data indicated the resident population in 2016 at 5845 with an estimated increase of the resident population in 2019 to total 6215.

The largest age group represented in the 2016 census data was 65-69 year olds, with a median age of 49 years, which is markedly higher than the Australian median age of 38 years, the Western Australian median age of 36 years and the regional WA median age of 39 years of age.

Demographic data indicates that the Shire of Denmark trends include an aging population, an increase in couples without children and a high percentage of absentee landowners. (Community Strategic Plan 2027).

Estimated resident population Shire of Denmark

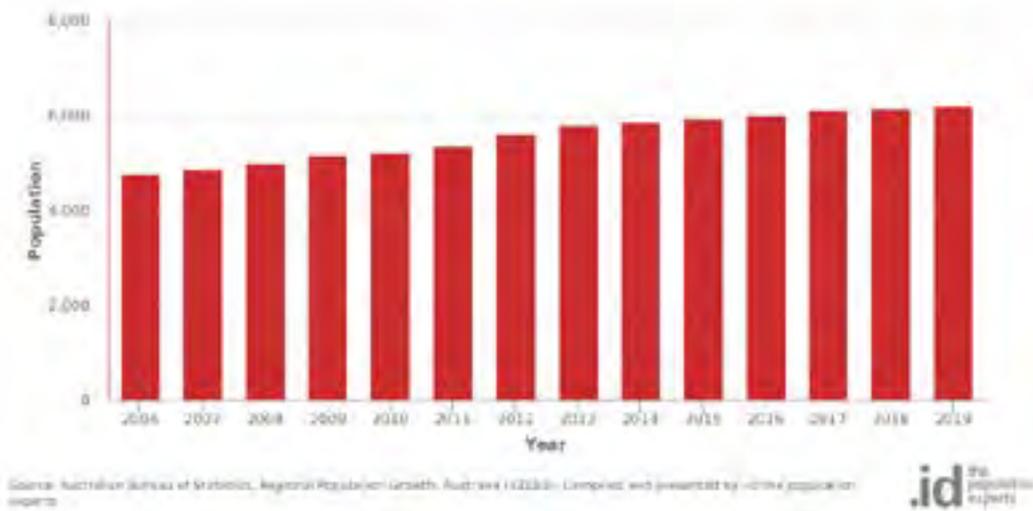


Figure 3: Estimated Resident Population Shire of Denmark, Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data (2016).

Age structure - five year age groups, 2016

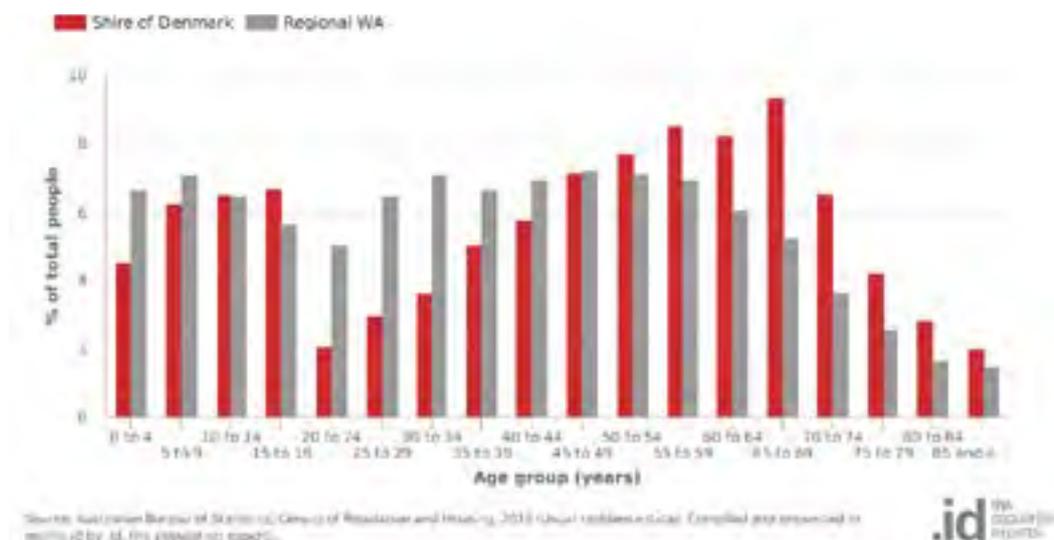


Figure 4: Age structure Shire of Denmark comparative to Regional WA, Australian Bureau of Statistics Census data (2016).

Age-sex pyramid, 2016

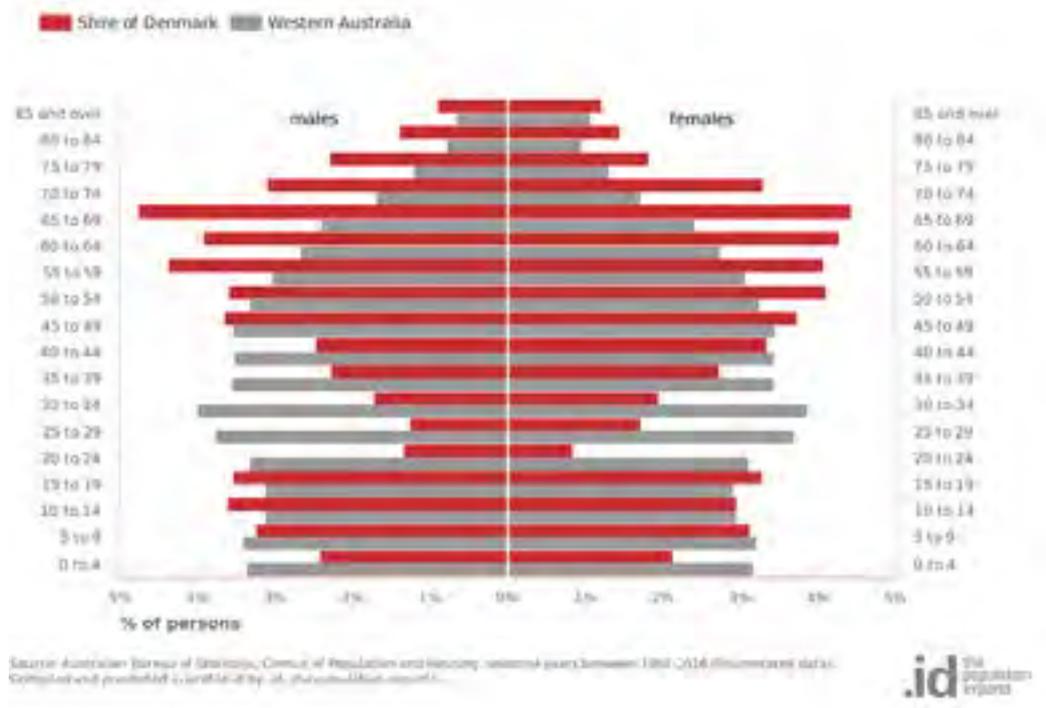


Figure 5: Age-sex Pyramid - Shire of Denmark Demographic, Community Strategic Plan (2027).

Source: <http://profile.id.com.au/denmark>

Estimated resident population 5,964	Male 49.6%	Female 50.4%
Median age 49	Families 1,552	Average children per family (families with children) 1.8
Average people per household 2.3	Private dwellings 1,175	Volunteers 1,441
Local businesses 695	Local jobs 1,959	Employed residents 2,504
Unemployment rate 6.86%	Largest industry Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Gross regional product \$0.25 billion

Table 1: Shire of Denmark Demographic information from Census data 2016, Community Strategic Plan (2027).

Climate Change Impacts

The effect of human-induced global climate change has in recent years emerged as having increasing impacts upon biodiversity, human health and natural resources.

It has become paramount for the developed world to act as a leader in the global community, to implement sustainable practices, mitigation actions and adaptation strategies to address impacts from a changing climate.

The State of the Climate 2020 Report released by CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology highlights the need to plan for and adapt as “observations, reconstructions and climate modelling paint a consistent picture of ongoing, long-term climate change interacting with underlying natural variability. Associated changes in weather and climate extremes—such as extreme heat, heavy rainfall and coastal inundation, fire weather and drought—have a large impact on the health and well-being of our communities and ecosystems. They affect the lives and livelihoods of all Australians.” (p.2)

In particular, the data shows:

- Australia’s climate has warmed on average by 1.44 ± 0.24 degree C since national records began in 1910, leading to an increase in the frequency of extreme heat events
- There has been a decline of around 16% in April-October rainfall in the South West of Australia since 1970. Across the same region May-July rainfall has seen the largest decrease, by around 20% since 1970

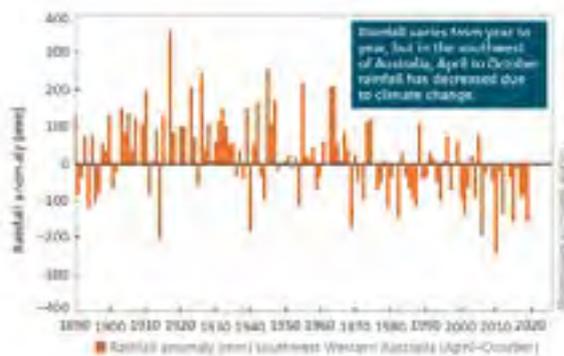


Figure 6: Rainfall anomaly trends in SW WA April-October over past 120 years, State of the Climate, (2020).

- There has been an increase in extreme fire weather and in the length of the fire season across large parts of the country since the 1950s, especially in southern Australia
- Oceans around Australia are acidifying and have warmed by around 1 degree C since 1910, contributing to longer and more frequent marine heatwaves

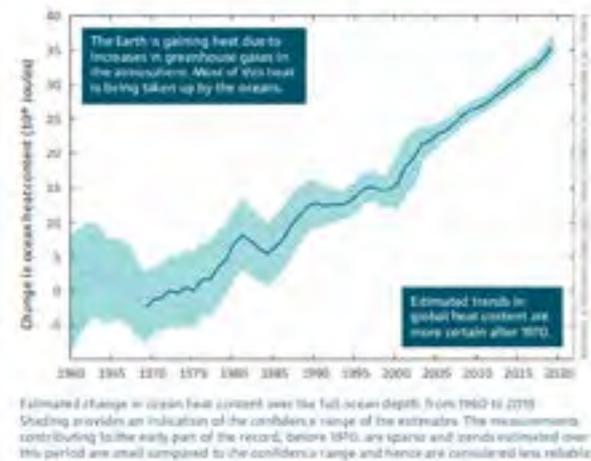


Figure 7: Changes in Ocean Heat Content from 1960-2019, State of the Climate, (2020).

- Sea levels are rising around Australia, including more frequent extremes, that are increasing the risk of inundation and damage to coastal infrastructure and communities

The bottom line is that “reducing global greenhouse gas emissions will lead to less warming and fewer impacts in the future”. (CSIRO, 2020, p.2)

The Shire of Denmark is geographically located to experience many of the impacts mentioned in the State of the Climate Report (2020) and as such has recognised the importance that sustainability principles will play in leading the work we do within the organisation and the wider community. This Strategy and supporting action plan will provide a direction to Shire officers to embed sustainability principles in the decision-making process, which supports the community feedback received during the consultation stage.



This strategy and supporting action plan will provide a direction to Shire officers to embed sustainability principles in the decision-making process, which supports the community feedback received during the consultation stage

Our Commitment

Council resolved in June 2010 (Council Res. No. 300610), through a recommendation from the Shire's Climate Change Advisory Committee, to sign the WALGA Declaration on Climate Change.

This Policy Statement involves acknowledging:

- climate change impacts are from human induced GHG emissions
- there is government responsibility at all tiers to contribute to climate change mitigation through climate change adaptation strategies

In November 2017, a Sustainability Strategy Working Group (SSWG) was established from Council Resolution Res No. 181117 in November 2017 with the objective "to develop a Sustainability Strategy for the Shire of Denmark at a corporate level."

In September 2019, the Shire of Denmark declared a Climate Emergency and aligned itself to 2016 Paris Agreement Targets. (Council Resolution 030919).

This Council decision is in accord with WALGA's Climate Change Policy Statement (2018) which emphasises "Local Government is committed to meeting international obligations through Australia's participation in protocols and agreements established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including but not limited to the Paris Agreement...".

The Shire of Denmark is a signatory to WALGA's Declaration on Climate Change as stipulated in Shire Policy P100512 WALGA Declaration on Climate Change, in accord with the Climate Change Policy Statement which states "Local Government supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and supports climate change action as part of a broader sustainable development agenda."

The Shire of Denmark is committed to being a leader and role model within the community in sustainable practices and carbon reduction initiatives; and will act as facilitator for the community to transition to more sustainable outcomes.

The Sustainability Strategy looks ahead to 2030 with achievable targets and to 2050 with aspirational outcomes.

- 50% reduction of current Shire of Denmark GHG emissions by 2030
- Net zero GHG emissions from all Shire of Denmark operations and activities by 2050



Baseline Data 2020

Energy Consumption 2020

The Shire of Denmark subscribes to Azility, an environmental scorekeeper service, which works with the Shire and utility providers to collect and report the energy and water performance data for the Shire’s assets. The subscription allows the Shire to proactively manage its energy and water consumption and associated costs to be able to make informed decisions, identify basic performance issues and opportunities to improve performance.

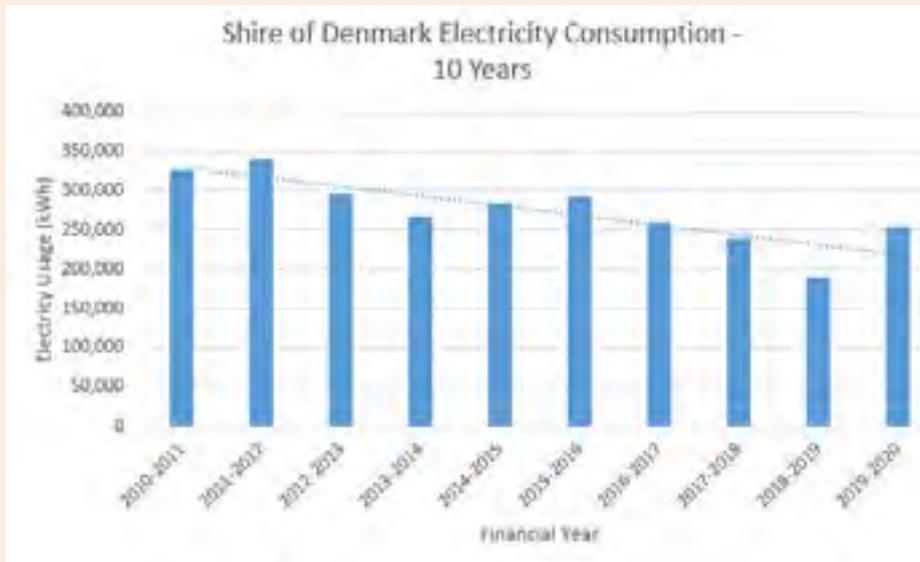


Figure 8: Shire of Denmark Electricity Consumption – 10 Years, Azility.

Financial Year Name	Electricity Usage (kWh)
2001-2002	0
2010-2011	325,560
2011-2012	340,807
2012-2013	295,445
2013-2014	288,357
2014-2015	283,133
2015-2016	292,041
2016-2017	259,820
2017-2018	238,980
2018-2019	188,285
2019-2020	254,848

Table 2: Shire of Denmark Electricity Consumption Trend over 10 Years from 2010-2020.



Baseline Data 2020 (cont.)

Water Consumption 2020

In January 2018, the Shire of Denmark was officially endorsed as a Waterwise Council by the Water Corporation and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Waterwise Council endorsement is awarded on an annual basis for the Shire’s commitment to sustainable water management in Denmark. Endorsement criteria includes development of a Water Efficiency Action Plan which set water use targets and actions on how to achieve those targets over a five year period; staff undertaking Waterwise training; a review of community and Shire water use; no breaches of ground or scheme water usage; and annual reporting to retain endorsement.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Although not mandated by legislation, the aim is to expand the Azility reporting to include monitoring and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions and setting of targets.



Figure 9: Shire of Denmark Water Consumption – 10 Years, Azility.

Financial Year Name	Water Usage (kL)	Change since Previous Year (%)	Percentage of Base Year (%)
2010-2011	30,000	77.93%	100%
2011-2012	22,872	-23.88%	76%
2012-2013	18,173	-32.08%	60%
2013-2014	19,912	-31.23%	66%
2014-2015	15,540	-21.92%	51%
2015-2016	12,074	-18.48%	40%
2016-2017	15,073	28.03%	50%
2017-2018	18,100	0.80%	60%
2018-2019	14,983	-4.07%	49%
2019-2020	15,300	-20.20%	51%

Table 3: Shire of Denmark Water Consumption Trend over 10 Years from 2010-2020.

Our Approach

One Planet Living Framework

The One Planet Living Framework is a strategic sustainable development planning tool which takes a holistic approach to the development and implementation of sustainable development goals through utilisation of ten guiding principles of sustainability.

It was developed by Bioregional with a vision of “thriving regional economies where we meet more of our needs from local, renewable and waste resources, enabling people to live happy, healthy lives within the natural limits of the planet, leaving space for wildlife and wilderness.” The One Planet Living Framework is endorsed by WALGA as one of the two strongest frameworks to incorporate corporate and community commitments aligning existing Key Performance Indicator (KPI) reporting systems within Local Government. (Mains, 2018).

The One Planet Living Framework is a four stage process which involves a high level of community and stakeholder engagement. The process encompasses the four phases of evaluation, visioning, planning and ongoing monitoring and reporting. Bioregional outlines the key components of the process as:

- Stakeholder workshops to develop a One Planet vision and Action Plan
- Implementation of the Action Plan
- Monitoring and reviewing progress
- Updating the Action Plan



Figure 10: Key Components of the Process, Bioregional, April 2018, Implementing One Planet Living: A Manual, One Planet Living.

Resourcing

In order to enact the strategies and actions within the Sustainability Strategy the Shire of Denmark requires resourcing commitments.

The employment of a Sustainability Officer by the Shire of Denmark in 2020 is a key resource to oversee the review, identification, implementation and reporting of actions from the Sustainability Action Plan on an ongoing basis.

The Sustainability Officer will also play a critical role in embedding sustainability activities and processes across the organisation through the corporate planning process to ensure that we continue to promote and support cultural change within our workplace, in order to deliver sustainability outcomes for the community.

At a corporate and Council level, the long-term resourcing required to deliver on targets for a more sustainable community requires consideration of a range of factors including:

- Decisions on managing and maintaining key infrastructure assets
- Planning for future service delivery based on the changing needs of the community

- Understanding the full cost of service or project delivery over its life time
- Understanding the value of services to a community which help with decision making around changing services to manage costs, adding new services and when to reduce or remove services

The planning undertaken to ensure positive advances are made with achieving the targets set in the Sustainability Strategy requires the Shire to resource projects through the Long-term Financial Plan process.

The initial step is to ensure that significant Sustainability Strategy actions are identified and are committed within the four year Corporate Business Plan. Smaller projects are managed through the annual budget process where new or improved activities that support sustainability actions are identified by managers through the annual operational planning process.

During annual planning, managers also have the opportunity to identify potential external funding opportunities that can assist in supporting the delivery of sustainability activities. The identified actions will then be incorporated into the Shire's annual operational plan for implementation and reporting.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Bioregional, the creators of the One Planet Living Framework, state that monitoring is a significant component of the process for both internal purposes, to track performance and progress in order to continually update the Sustainability Action Plan and improve practices; as well as external progress reporting to stakeholders and the broader community. (Bioregional, 2018).

The Shire of Denmark Community Strategic Plan 2027 states that "Our measure of success will include: Community satisfaction

survey; Development and implementation of our strategies and plans; Monitoring building, environmental and waste statistics and trends".

The Shire of Denmark will report to the community on the measurable actions of the Sustainability Action Plan as part of the annual reporting process to Council. The annual review and development of the Sustainability Action Plan will seek feedback and comment from the community. The Sustainability Strategy will incorporate a minor review at five years, with a major review cycle on a ten year basis.



Ten Pillars of Sustainability



The One Planet Living Framework is comprised of ten pillars of sustainability, with each pillar supported by guiding principles and objectives.

The pillars have been identified as those factors which contribute most predominantly towards "...deep sustainability... based on what science is currently telling us about what is needed to live within the Earth's means." These principles are at a high level supported by Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) set out in the accompanying Sustainability Action Plan. The Action Plan provides the specific actions, responsibility, priority and measure of success by which we can assess achievement of the principles.

Icon	Pillar	Guiding Principles and Objectives
	Health and happiness	Eliminating stress, social inequality, financial insecurity, pollution, and emissions
	Equity and local economy	Creating jobs, equality, access to financial services, low financial risk, pensions, and mortgages for those
	Culture and community	Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering diverse members and promoting a culture of sustainable living
	Land and nature	Protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife
	Sustainable water	Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought
	Local and sustainable food	Encouraging sustainable farming, forming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein
	Travel and transport	Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport
	Materials and products	Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption
	Zero waste	Reducing consumption, re-using and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution
	Zero carbon energy	Making buildings, communities and energy efficient and supplying all energy with no emissions

Table 3: Ten Pillars of Sustainability, Bioregional, April 2018, Implementing One Planet Living: A Manual, One Planet Living.

The Process



The Process to develop the Sustainability Strategy that was undertaken by the Sustainability Strategy Working Group is outlined in detail by the algorithm flow map below:

Sustainability Strategy Process Map



Figure 11: Sustainability Strategy Process Map.



Working With Community

The Shire of Denmark defines community engagement within the Shire of Denmark Community Engagement Policy and Framework 2015 as “...an important process of fostering relationships between Council and the community, whereby Council shares information, consults, involves, collaborates and actively enhances community capability to influence and shape the planning and delivery of services and Council decisions.”

The Shire of Denmark is committed to working with our community to create a culture of sustainable living. This involves listening and working with the community to understand the programs and support required to foster local action. The Shire of Denmark has committed organisations and community groups who have wide ranging knowledge and experience that brought together can be a valuable resource. Council will work to facilitate those connections and assist these organisations and groups to deliver better outcomes.

Sustainability Strategy Working Group

The Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy Working Group (SSWG) was Council’s vehicle for engaging with community to develop a Sustainability Strategy which works towards achieving the sustainability goals and targets identified and agreed to in the Paris Agreement. The SSWG was established in November 2017 from Council Resolution No. 181117 with the objective of developing a Sustainability Strategy for the Shire of Denmark. The SSWG was comprised of three Councillors, eleven community member representatives through a self-nominated process with selection and appointment made by Council, the Director of Assets and Sustainable Development, and the Sustainability Officer. The SSWG supported the utilisation of the One Planet Living Framework and the premise of the ten pillars of sustainability as the medium to develop the Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy and Sustainability Action Plan.

Community Consultation

Community consultation on the development of the Shire Sustainability Strategy involved engagement with various aspects of the community through a variety of means including interactive workshops and surveys. This level of engagement is supported by the principle of co-creation espoused by Bioregional “The most effective Action Plans come from a collective process with everyone involved – whether that be staff, customers, local people, suppliers, future residents, designers, engineers and so on.” (Bioregional, 2018).

Five workshops were conducted throughout the Sustainability Strategy development process; three involving the SSWG from inception through to draft strategy review, and two additional interim workshops which were aimed at gaining information and feedback from Shire staff.

A community online survey was conducted with the public invited to comment over a five month period from July to December 2020. The Denmark Senior High School was approached to gain their input, through a class workshop, as well as via an online survey. Key stakeholder groups were also directly targeted and emailed the link to the online survey to gain comments and feedback from representative groups from within the Denmark community.

The Shire of Denmark is committed to working with our community to create a culture of sustainable living.



Community Consultation Findings

A common theme expressed in the narrative responses by the community as to what the main foci to achieve sustainability outcomes was that the sustainability pillars are all intrinsically linked, and when efforts are made in one area it has flow on positive effects in another: “All 10 pillars are important... would be good to design a holistic program... they are all intrinsically linked... many initiatives go hand-in-hand”.

There were a total of 37 respondents over the five month period that the community online survey was made available to obtain public comment. The predominant community response to the most important sustainability pillar was that of Land Use & Natural Environment, followed by Zero Carbon, and then third with Sustainable Water. There were also 37 respondents from the Denmark Senior High School (DSHS) to the survey regarding the most important sustainability pillar; of which the dominant response was Zero Waste, followed by Zero Carbon and then Land Use & the Natural Environment.

Community survey responses regarding a future vision for Denmark in 2035 predominantly related to Health & Happiness expressed as “a healthy, happy, connected and inclusive community”. As with the broader community survey results, the majority of DSHS student responses related to Health & Happiness with comments stating their vision for Denmark as a “friendly, close-knit community with a green sustainable population”.

The community consultation that was undertaken throughout the development of the Sustainability Strategy resulted in an extensive amount of data that has been analysed and represented with the culmination of the Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy Community Consultation Findings Report. The findings from the range of community and youth surveys have been incorporated into the development of the Sustainability Strategy process and are reflected in the identified Key Principles and Objectives. Additionally, the findings from the community consultation undertaken drive the actions and priority setting within the associated Sustainability Action Plan.



References

- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016, presented in profile.id, <https://profile.id.com.au/denmark/population>
- Bureau of Meteorology, Climate Statistics for Australian Locations: Denmark, (2021) http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/averages/tables/cw_009637.shtml
- Bioregional, (2018). Implementing One Planet Living: A Manual, One Planet Living: Bioregional Australia.
- Bioregional, (2018). One Planet Action Plan Template, One Planet Living: Bioregional Australia.
- CSIRO, Bureau of Meteorology, (2020). State of the Climate 2020, Commonwealth of Australia.
- Denmark Senior High School Student Responses to survey monkey August-September 2020
- Great Southern Group of Councils, (2014). Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018), iwProjects Pty. Ltd..
- Mains, J. 2018. Sustainability Frameworks: A Review and Comparative Analysis, WALGA and City of Perth, Leederville.
- State Government of Western Australia, (2003). Hope for the future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy, National Library of Australia, Perth WA.
- Shire of Denmark Strategic Community Plan 2027
- Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan 2018-2022
- Shire of Denmark Community Engagement Policy and Framework 2015.
- Shire of Denmark Policy Manual
- Shire of Denmark Annual Report 2019-2020
- Shire of Denmark Local Planning Scheme No. 3 (Original gazetted 1994; updated 2019)
- Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)
- Shire of Denmark Let's Plan a Sustainable Future: Survey Response Report 15 July 2020 - 8 December 2020
- University of California UCLA: Institute of the Environment and Sustainability, (2021). Sustainability. <https://www.sustain.ucla.edu/what-is-sustainability/#:~:text=In%20the%20charter%20for%20the,generation%20and%20generations%20to%20come>. Regents of the University of California.
- WALGA's Climate Change Policy Statement (2018)
- WALGA's Policy Statement on Climate Change (2009)
- WALGA's Sustainability Frameworks: A Review and Comparative Analysis (2018)
- Weather and Climate, World Weather & Climate Information (2010-2021) <https://weather-and-climate.com/average-monthly-Rainfall-Temperature-Sunshine,denmark-western-australia-au,Australia>



Appendices

- Shire of Denmark Community Consultation Findings Report (January 2021)
- Shire of Denmark Sustainability Action Plan (2021)



P: (08) 9848 0300

E: enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au

953 South Coast Highway
Denmark WA 6333

www.denmark.wa.gov.au



SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

“If we do things that are unsustainable, the damage accumulates to a point when ultimately the whole system collapses... if we act now, we can yet put it right.”

(David Attenborough, 2020, *A Life on Our Planet*).

Contents

Ten Sustainability Pillars	3
Sustainability Actions	5
1. Health & Happiness	6
2. Equity & Local Economy	8
3. Culture & Community	10
4. Land & Nature	14
5. Sustainable Water	18
6. Local & Sustainable Food	20
7. Sustainable Travel & Transport	22
8. Sustainable Materials & Products	24
9. Zero Waste	26
10. Zero Carbon Energy	29

Ten Sustainability Pillars

Sustainability means balancing economic, social and environmental factors and setting out key environmental priorities for the future. The *Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy 2021-2031* outlines guiding principles and overarching objectives into ten Sustainability Pillars, which we aim to use as a mechanism to report on our strong commitment to sustainability.

10 Sustainability Pillars			
	Health & Happiness <i>Building the wellbeing of our people is important for the long-term health of our community.</i>		Local & Sustainable Food <i>A sustainable food system that provides health food to the community focuses on the production, processing, distribution, and disposal in ways that contribute to the health of the local economy.</i>
	Equity & Local Economy <i>We value the local economy and want to optimise how all members of our community can benefit from sustainable investment.</i>		Sustainable Travel & Transport <i>Sustainable or Green Transport aims to limit the reliance on diminishing natural resources that leave a high carbon footprint.</i>
	Culture & Community <i>We value our community's cultural knowledge and sharing this with future generations.</i>		Sustainable Materials & Products <i>Sustainable Materials aim to have a limited negative impact on people and natural resources and do not deplete or degrade the environment.</i>
	Land & Nature <i>We will protect and enhance our natural systems that are vital to the sustainability of our local community.</i>		Zero Waste <i>The Shire seeks to embrace the role of a leader in the community by minimising waste.</i>
	Sustainable Water <i>A sustainable water approach seeks to manage the threat to the supply and quality of water resources for our community while also seeking to minimise usage.</i>		Zero Carbon Energy <i>Committing to working towards a net zero emissions target is an important step in tackling climate change.</i>

Table 1: Adapted from Bioregional, (2018). *One Planet Action Plan Template*, One Planet Living: Bioregional Australia.

The actions within the *Sustainability Action Plan* are categorised into the ten identified pillars of sustainability and correlate directly with the key principles and objectives outlined in the *Sustainability Strategy*. The ten sustainability pillars encompass a holistic approach to sustainability through the lens of the economy, our society and the environment.



Figure 1: Culture of Sustainability: 10 Sustainability Pillars model

Sustainability Actions

The *Sustainability Action Plan* developed in 2021 is the first formal document produced by the Shire of Denmark in line with the *Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)*. The *Sustainability Action Plan* details, prioritises and orders the work to be done. The actions within the *Sustainability Action Plan* have corresponding 'measures of success' **and are assigned to individual sections within the Shire's organisation so it is clear who is responsible for delivering them.**

The actions are categorised into the ten Sustainability Pillars and are further set out in the following tiers:

- Governance/policy
- Shire operations
- Community-oriented actions

Each action item has a corresponding:

- Directive - an associated identified relevant plan or policy
- Responsibility - management directorate assigned responsibility for implementation through the Operational Plan
- Resourcing Required - whether the resourcing required is existing, planned or new, requiring additional resources attributed and funding commitment
- Priority – priority designated as high (H), medium (M), or low (L) derived from community expectations and organisational operational need based on technical expertise
- KPI /Measure of Success – key performance indicator to assess achievement of stated action
- Reference – each action is aligned with a key principle and objective as outlined in the *Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy*

The *Sustainability Action Plan* **is reviewed and updated annually with relevant stated actions incorporated into the Shire's Operational Plan.**

1 Health & Happiness



Building the well-being of our people is important for the long-term health of our community.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI /Measure of Success	Ref
HH1	Develop a written policy position to advocate for affordable housing for disadvantaged and homeless persons.	<i>WA Government Department of Communities Homelessness Strategy Action Plan (2020-2025)</i>	Governance - CEO	New	H	Development of a policy position addressing affordable housing and homelessness.	1.3
HH2	Develop a Public Health Plan.	<i>WA Public Health Act (2016)</i>	Governance - Environmental Health	Planned	H	Shire Public Health Plan endorsed by June 2021.	1.2
HH3	Continue Shire Health & Wellness program.	<i>WA Work Health & Safety Bill (2019) Shire of Denmark Employee Health & Wellness Policy P070602</i>	Governance - Human Resources	Existing	H	A healthy, active workforce with reduced sick leave.	1.1
HH4	Flexible Working Arrangements made available to staff where appropriate.	<i>Shire of Denmark Workforce Plan & People Strategy (2019-2022) Shire of Denmark Employee Health & Wellness Policy P070602</i>	Governance - Human Resources	Planned	H	Procedures and processes in place for Flexible Working Arrangements to occur via managers when requests received from employees for consideration of flexible working arrangements.	1.1

HH5	Install showers and change room facilities at the Shire administration building.	<i>Shire of Denmark Workforce Plan & People Strategy (2019-2022)</i>	Technical Services – Assets	New	M	Facilities for showering installed at Shire administration building.	1.1
HH6	Incorporate sustainable design principles within all current and future public spaces, streetscapes and neighbourhoods.	<i>Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No. 3 Townscape Policy (No. 15)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Planned	H	Local Planning Strategy (LPS) updated to reflect sustainable design principles.	1.2
HH7	LPS to foster community connections across the Shire.	<i>Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Existing	H	LPS updated to connect community localities across the Shire.	1.4
HH8	Conduct and support education programs informing the community around sustainable living.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	M	Delivery of education programs on sustainable living.	1.4
HH9	Continue to regularly undertake Shire’s Community Survey to monitor and respond to community concerns.	<i>Shire of Denmark Community Engagement Policy & Framework (2015)</i>	Governance – Corporate Planning	Existing	H	Monitor <i>Current place to Live</i> for improvement trends over time as per Markyt Scorecard.	1.3

2 Equity & Local Economy



We value the local economy and want to optimise how all members of our community can benefit from sustainable investment.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI /Measure of Success	Ref
LE1	Continue to enact the Shire's <i>Regional Price Preference Policy P040216</i> .	<i>Shire of Denmark Regional Price Preference Policy P040216</i>	Corporate Services – Finance	Existing	H	Annual reporting to inform the community of Shire purchases and the local content of those purchases.	2.1
LE2	Develop a community-centred <i>Tourism Strategy</i> incorporating sustainable business practice consistent with community aspirations and objectives from the <i>Shire's Community Strategic Plan</i> ; including protection of the natural environment, retention of Denmark 'village atmosphere' , and sustainable tourism.	<i>Council Resolution – Res 051020 at OCM October 2020</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Community Strategic Plan (2027)</i>	Governance – Corporate Planning	Planned	H	Council endorsement of a community-centred <i>Tourism Strategy</i> by June 2021.	2.1
LE3	Investigate feasibility of developing a Responsible Sustainable Investment Policy for the Shire.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	M	Investigations undertaken as to the viability of developing a Sustainable Investment Policy for the Shire.	2.2

LE4	Support the Chamber of Commerce on business after hours and procurement workshops (i.e. buy local initiatives).	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	Existing	M	Host annual Business After Hours with Chamber of Commerce.	2.2
LE5	Work with Chamber of Commerce on investigating initiatives to attract sustainable businesses.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	M	Engagement with Chamber of Commerce on sustainable business initiatives.	2.3
LE6	Support eligible parties to access supported finance options for sustainability related projects through the Community Financial Assistance Program (CFAP).	<i>Shire of Denmark Community Financial Assistance Program Policy P040125</i>	Community Services – Community Development	New	M	Delivery of sustainability related projects through CFAP.	2.3
LE7	Review of CFAP Guidelines to incorporate a sustainability weighting to the CFAP assessment process.	<i>Shire of Denmark Community Financial Assistance Program Policy P040125</i>	Community Services – Community Development	New	M	Incorporation of sustainability weighting to CFAP assessment process.	2.3
LE8	Promote partnerships with not-for-profits to leverage funding for sustainable enterprise activity, including the Denmark Community Windfarm Inc. Sustainable Living Fund.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	M	Delivery of sustainable enterprise activities through partnerships with not-for-profits and community groups.	2.3

3 Culture & Community



We value our *community's cultural knowledge and sharing this with future generations.*

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI /Measure of Success	Ref
CC1	Review and report annually on <i>Sustainability Action Plan</i> .	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Corporate Planning	New	H	Delivery of <i>Sustainability Action Plan</i> review through Shire Annual Report.	3.1
CC2	Embed sustainability awareness for all new Shire staff as part of the formal induction process.	<i>Shire of Denmark Policy P070602 Workforce Plan & People Strategy (2019-2022)</i>	Governance – Human Resources	New	M	Sustainability awareness training incorporated into Shire induction checklist.	3.1
CC3	Review compliance of the Shire of Denmark <i>Sustainable Events Policy P100516</i> .	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainable Events Policy P100516</i>	Community Services – Community Services Manager	New	H	100 per cent of Shire events meet the <i>Sustainable Events Policy</i> criteria.	3.2
CC4	Implement actions within the Shire <i>Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (2018-2023)</i> .	<i>Shire of Denmark Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (2018-2023)</i>	Technical Services – Infrastructure	Existing	H	Annual reporting delivery through <i>Disability Access and Inclusion Plan</i> .	3.6

CC5	Develop a <i>Reconciliation Action Plan</i> .	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i>	Governance	New	H	Council endorsement of a <i>Reconciliation Action Plan</i> .	3.4
CC6	Provide opportunities for youth to contribute to the development of the sustainability agenda, including access to the Community Financial Assistance Program (CFAP) to undertake sustainability projects.	<i>Shire of Denmark Community Strategic Plan (2027)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Community Financial Assistance Program Policy P040125</i>	Community Services – Community Development	New	M	Provision of a pathway for youth engagement in the sustainability arena. Youth sustainability projects supported through CFAP.	3.5
CC7	Investigate the opportunity for a vibrant sustainable and integrated youth hub/precinct in a central location.	<i>Shire of Denmark Community Strategic Plan (2027)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Sport and Recreation Master Plan (2018)</i>	Community Services – Community Development	New	M	Engagement with youth to explore opportunities for a sustainable and integrated youth hub/precinct.	3.5
CC8	Work with not-for-profits to deliver and/or assist with Shire activities that support sustainable events (i.e. Plastic Reduction Denmark).	<i>Sustainable Events Policy P100516</i>	Community Services – Community Development	Existing	M	Engagement with not-for-profit organisations regarding sustainable event management activities.	3.7

CC9	Provide support for recruitment, retention and succession planning of volunteers for bushfire brigades.	<i>MOU - DFES and Shire of Denmark 2020 for the provision of a Community Emergency Services Manager</i>	Community Services – Community Emergency Services Manager	Existing	M	Provision of support to the leadership groups within the Bushfire Advisory Committee on recruitment, retention and succession planning.	38
CC10	Trial a community volunteering model for sporting clubs.	<i>Shire of Denmark Policy P070602 Workforce Plan & People Strategy (2019-2022)</i>	Community Services – Our Clubs Development Officer	Existing	M	Community volunteer model in place with learnings for future engagement.	3.8
CC11	Trial a community volunteering model for Friends of Reserves.	<i>Shire of Denmark Friends of Reserves Strategy (2010)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	L	Community volunteer model in place with learnings for future engagement.	3.8
CC12	Trial a community volunteering model for tracks and trail maintenance to encourage more sustainable transport options.	<i>Great Southern Regional Trails Master Plan 2020-2029</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Trails Master Plan</i>	Assets & Sustainable Development	New	M	Community volunteer model in place with learnings for future engagement.	3.8
CC13	Develop a <i>My Community</i> platform incorporating a sustainable environmental section to encourage community members to volunteer with local community groups that care for our environment.	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i>	Community Services – Community Development	Planned	M	Delivery of online <i>My Community</i> platform with environmental volunteer opportunities.	3.8

CC14	Continue to develop new educational programs to encourage community members to reduce, reuse and recycle.	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	New	M	Delivery of reduce, reuse and recycle education programs.	3.3
CC15	Support government initiatives that enable community members to implement sustainable practices such as installing energy and water saving features.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	Existing	M	Implementation of sustainable practice, government-led initiative programs for the community.	3.3
CC16	Provide information to community members to consider environmentally efficient designs when building new homes.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Sustainable Development – Building	New	M	Provision of web-based material on sustainable building design options resources.	3.3
CC17	Provide educational resources to community members to protect and plant local native vegetation on their property.	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	Existing	M	Provision of educational resources on native vegetation landscaping.	3.3

4 Land & Nature



We will protect and enhance our natural systems that are vital to the sustainability of our local community.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI /Measure of Success	Ref
LN1	Liaise with State and local Government agencies to protect and preserve the Wilson Inlet and ecosystems in the Shire of Denmark.	<i>Wilson Inlet Foreshore Reserves Management Plan (2008)</i> <i>Wilson Inlet Water Quality Improvement Plan (pending)</i> <i>Wilson Inlet Management Strategy (2013-2022)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	Planned	H	Participate with and contribute to the implementation of actions from associated Wilson Inlet management plans.	4.2
LN2	Investigate options to develop an objective environmental impact measuring tool to guide decision making for procurement.	<i>Shire of Denmark Environment Policy P100503</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Purchasing Policy P040220 (5)</i> <i>Sustainable Procurement</i>	Assets & Sustainable Development	New	H	Redesign evaluation matrix for procurement to include, as far as is practicable, objective environmental considerations.	4.1

LN3	Encourage environmentally sustainable planning and development through the Shire's planning framework.	<i>Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No.3 Subdivision Guide Plans</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Planned	H	Sustainable planning and development incorporated into the Shire's framework documents.	4.1
LN4	Identify adequate and appropriate land available for development, including incorporating planting offsets with rezoning of larger areas for further development.	<i>Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No.3 Subdivision Guide Plans</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Existing	H	Land identified in planning documents for development.	4.1
LN5	Provision of information packs and advice on best practice for native vegetation clearing and planting offsets generated through advice notes as part of Planning Development Application approvals process.	<i>Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	New	M	Information packs and advice notes on best practice for native vegetation clearing and planting offsets incorporated into Planning Development Application approvals process.	4.1

LN6	Develop master reserve management strategy for Shire bushland, foreshore and coastal reserves	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Environment Policy P100503 Shire of Denmark Reserves Assessments</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	M	Development of Reserve Management Strategy.	4.2
LN7	Review and update existing reserve management plans, including <i>Weed Strategy Action Plan</i> and <i>Coastal Reserve Strategy Action Plan</i> .	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	Planned	M	Update and review management plans, strategies and action plans pertaining to reserves management.	4.2
LN8	Develop an Environmental Impact Assessment process for Shire operational activities and associated educational workshops for staff.	<i>Shire of Denmark Environment Policy P100503</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	H	Utilisation of Environmental Impact Assessment checklist by staff where appropriate, with adequate training provided to staff.	4.1
LN9	Develop guidelines and application template for native vegetation clearing for private property fence line construction and maintenance.	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Environment Policy P100503</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	H	Guidelines and application template developed for native vegetation clearing activities such as fence line clearing.	4.1

LN10	Development of an assessment tool to prioritise in-kind support for community and agency control measures for biosecurity and invasive species effecting broadscale bushland.	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	H	Provision of on-going support to a range of community and agency biosecurity programs identified in annual budget.	4.1
LN11	Raise awareness of Shire of Denmark <i>Street Tree Policy</i> through Shire's social media platform.	<i>Shire of Denmark Street Tree Policy (P120101)</i>	Governance – Community Engagement	New	M	Promotion of <i>Street Tree Policy</i> through social media and more street trees planted.	4.1
LN12	Adopt a Significant Trees List and Tree Preservation Order Policy under the Shire's Town Planning Scheme (TPS).	<i>Shire of Denmark Municipal Heritage Inventory (2011)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Planned	H	Development of a Significant Trees List and Policy through TPS review.	4.2
LN13	Continue to invest in rehabilitation of Shire land, including increasing annual tree planting and revegetation program.	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Revegetation Officer	Existing	H	Annual reporting of Shire revegetation projects meeting revegetation targets.	4.3
LN14	Liaise with community to ensure concerns are considered with regard to on-going protection of Shire's natural assets and values.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	Existing	H	Raised awareness within community regarding protection of environmental assets and values.	4.4
LN15	Provide educational resources to the broader community on protection of the natural environment.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	Existing	H	Provision of educational resources on protection of the natural environment.	4.4

5 Sustainable Water



A sustainable water approach seeks to manage the threat to the supply and quality of water resources for our community while also seeking to minimise usage.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI / Measure of Success	Ref
SW1	Maintain the Shire's Waterwise accreditation.	<i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	Existing	H	Annual monitoring and reporting to meet Waterwise criteria.	5.1
SW2	Continue to hold regular quarterly Water Management Team (WMT) meetings to assess status of Waterwise actions.	<i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	Existing	M	Quarterly WMT meetings held.	5.1
SW3	Investigate fire-resistant options for installation of durable water tanks on Shire buildings and administration building plumbed to building to be used on grey water system (toilets and washing).	<i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Technical Services – Assets	New	M	Increased number of water tanks and pumps installed on Shire buildings and plumbed into the toilets and greywater system.	5.1
SW4	Investigate Shire depot machine wash down area, using harvested water from the existing roof catchments.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Civil Infrastructure	New	M	Rainwater tanks being used for depot wash-down area and depot nursery.	5.1
SW5	Install water bottle refill facilities at strategic locations across the Shire.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainable Events Policy P100516</i>	Technical Services – Infrastructure	New	M	Installation of water refill facilities to enable compliance with Sustainable Events Policy at Shire events.	5.1

SW6	Investigate (through the <i>State Government's Liveable Neighbourhood Policy</i>) the potential to locate flood storage outside of the required 10 per cent public open space in new developments.	<i>WAPC Liveable Neighbourhood Policy (2015)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	New	M	Public open space areas are set aside for public to access, separate from and additional to drainage areas in new developments.	5.2
SW7	Review the <i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No.3 Dams and Water Features Policy No. 37</i> with a view to incorporate considerations for impacts on downstream flows and health of waterways in the catchment.	<i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No.3 Dams and Water Features Policy No. 37. (2009)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Planned	M	Review and update of <i>Dams and Water Features Policy No.37</i> undertaken.	5.2
SW8	Investigate the Shire's ability to require rainwater tanks for all new residential developments through a review of Scheme provisions and <i>Local Planning Policy No.40</i> and advocate for existing developments to access Water Corporation incentives to install.	<i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No.3 Rainwater Tanks and Greywater Re-use Systems Policy No.40</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	New	H	Investigation conducted into requirement for rainwater tanks on new residential developments incorporated into the planning framework.	5.3
SW9	Install infrastructure to divert waste water for reuse for irrigation at McLean Park.	<i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Assets & Sustainable Development	Planned	H	Waste water utilised for McLean Park irrigation.	5.1
SW10	Deliver education workshops for the community about limitations of water resources and opportunities for action at a local level.	<i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Waste & Reserves	Planned	M	Delivery of education workshops on waterwise best practice.	5.4
SW11	Provide educational resources to the broader community to promote waterwise gardens.	<i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	M	Provision of educational resources on waterwise information.	5.4

6 Local & Sustainable Food



A sustainable food system that provides healthy food to the community focuses on the production, processing, distribution and disposal in ways that contribute to the health of the local economy.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI/Measure of Success	Ref
SF1	Commitment to buy local and sustainable food and associated materials when sourcing for Shire activities.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainable Events Policy P100516</i>	Community Services – Community Development	Existing	H	100 per cent compliance with <i>Sustainable Events Policy</i> with local food procurement.	6.1
SF2	Consider (through the <i>Local Planning Strategy</i>) options for small scale horticulture and other local food production on small land parcels.	<i>Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)</i> <i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No.3 Rural Settlement Strategy Policy No.29 (1999)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Planned	M	Support for small scale local food production businesses incorporated into <i>Local Planning Strategy</i> and <i>TPS Policy No.29</i> .	6.3
SF3	Support investigations through liaison with DPIRD into possibility of future sustainable aquaculture projects within the Shire.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	M	Assistance provided through liaison and information provision towards possible sustainable aquaculture projects.	6.3

SF4	Support programs for local sustainable food innovations through the Community Financial Assistance Program (CFAP).	<i>Shire of Denmark Community Financial Assistance Program Policy P040125</i>	Community Services – Community Development	New	M	Application of a local and sustainable food weighting to the CFAP assessment process. Establishment and promotion of food innovation theme within CFAP program.	6.4
SF5	Partner with the Chamber of Commerce and State government in supporting investigation into sustainable farming products (i.e. viability of a local food processing plant and local or mobile abattoir).	<i>WA Health Meat Inspection Branding and Processing Regulations (1950)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	H	Engagement with key partners in responding to requests to support industry on case-by-case basis.	6.2
SF6	Support initiatives in developing 'fresh food trails' and local farmers markets.	<i>South Coast Alliance Regional Economic Development Strategy, The Amazing South Coast Business Plan (2020-2030)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	L	Engagement with key partners in response to requests to support industry on case-by-case basis.	6.4
SF7	Support delivery of education on sustainable food production (i.e. regenerative farming).	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	L	Delivery of education on sustainable food production practices.	6.4

7 Sustainable Travel & Transport



Sustainable or Green Transport aims to limit the reliance on diminishing natural resources that leave a high carbon footprint.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI /Measure of Success	Ref
ST1	Develop local active/integrated <i>Transport Infrastructure Plan</i> for the Shire including incorporation of building bicycle paths, improved pedestrian networks and installing way-finding trail markers.	<i>Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)</i>	Technical Services – Engineering	New	L	Council endorsed <i>Shire Transport Infrastructure Plan</i> .	7.2
ST2	Review Shire of Denmark's <i>Town Planning Scheme No.3 Town Centre Parking and Transportation No.47</i> to consider all new carpark developments to include infrastructure and design considerations for alternate modes of transport.	<i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No.3 Town Centre Parking and Transportation No.47 (2020)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Planned	L	Review undertaken of <i>Shire of Denmark Sustainable Transport Policy No.47</i> .	7.2
ST3	Reduce the carbon footprint for the fleet of corporate vehicles; including consideration of Council fleet vehicles to be electrical or hybrid.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Assets & Sustainable Development	New	H	Carbon footprint of Council fleet vehicles reduced by a minimum of 50 per cent by 2030.	7.1
ST4	Investigate and trial cultural change programs that will see reduced reliance on fossil fuel transport by staff.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Human Resources	New	M	Programs implemented to reduce fossil fuel usage by Shire staff.	7.4

ST5	Initiate strategies to maximise people in close proximity to town to minimise transport/car use, through review of Local Planning Strategy by increasing R-coding within a walkable catchment of the town centre.	<i>Shire of Denmark Local Planning Strategy (2011)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	New	M	<i>Town Planning Scheme No. 3</i> to introduce measures to implement higher residential densities within a walking distance to town centre.	7.4
ST6	Investigate installation of rapid charging stations within the Shire.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Assets & Sustainable Development	New	M	Business case produced regarding budget and installation of rapid charging stations.	7.3
ST7	Investigate and employ innovative technologies for pavement stabilisation, reinvigoration, seal design for construction and repair of roading.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Technical Services – Engineering	Existing	M	Investigations undertaken with new innovations and technologies budgeted for road design.	7.3
ST8	Support community initiatives for communal travel options (i.e. community shuttle bus to Greens Pool).	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	M	Communal travel options investigated.	7.4
ST9	Promote active modes of transport, including promotion of ride-sharing for commuters within the community.	<i>Shire of Denmark Community Strategic Plan (2027)</i>	Community Services – Community Development	New	M	Increased community engagement in active transport modes.	7.5

8 Sustainable Materials & Products



Sustainable Materials aim to have a limited negative impact on people and natural resources and do not deplete or degrade the environment.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI /Measure of Success	Ref
SM1	Ensure prioritisation of purchasing sustainable local building materials in Shire procurement practices through on-going education of Shire staff.	<i>Shire of Denmark Purchasing Policy P040220 (Sustainable Procurement)</i>	Technical Services – Assets	Existing	M	Compliance with Shire of Denmark <i>Purchasing Policy P040220</i> sustainable procurement principles.	8.1
SM2	Direct industry and public on where to access information on sourcing and selecting sustainable building materials.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Sustainable Development – Building	New	M	Links provided on Shire website to sources of information on sustainable building materials.	8.3
SM3	Liaise with Chamber of Commerce to support industry on promotion of sustainable material production and utilisation.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Governance – Economic Development	New	L	Engagement with Chamber of Commerce on supporting industry on sustainable material promotion.	8.3
SM4	Support not-for-profits in production and use of renewable and sustainable materials made from waste for Shire-related events and activities.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainable Events Policy P100516</i>	Community Services – Community Development	Existing	H	Incorporation of renewable sustainable materials in Shire events and reduced purchase of single-use and disposable items.	8.2

SM5	Support the community to develop a Library of Things and a Seed Library.	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i>	Community Services – Library	New	M	Development of a Library of Things, and continued management of Seed Library.	8.4
SM6	Support the reuse and recycling of materials through the Tip Shop.	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	Existing	H	Continued lease arrangement to support reuse and recycling of materials through the Tip Shop.	8.4
SM7	Promote educational programs on reuse as a viable alternative to purchasing new.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Waste & Reserves	New	M	Delivery of educational programs on reduce, reuse and recycling.	8.4

9 Zero Waste



The Shire seeks to embrace the role of a leader in the community by minimising waste.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI / Measure of Success	Ref
ZW1	Continue to collaborate with neighbouring Shires through the Regional Waste Alliance.	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018) WA Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy (2030)</i>	Waste & Reserves	Existing	H	Membership and collaborative initiatives with neighbouring Shires within the Waste Alliance.	9.3
ZW2	On-going support and co-ordination of the Waste Management Reform Working Group.	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	Existing	H	Facilitation of Waste Management Reform Working Group meetings.	9.3
ZW3	Investigate provision of green waste recycling (community purchase of affordable mulch).	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	New	M	Green waste recycling process options investigated and implemented where feasible by Shire.	9.1

ZW4	Implementation of green waste solutions that do not result in increased emissions through burning.	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	Planned	H	Disposal of green waste in a sustainable manner.	9.1
ZW5	Implement Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service.	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	New	H	FOGO services implemented.	9.1
ZW6	Encourage community to dispose of waste products appropriately through standardisation of bin-lid colours implemented on infrastructure.	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	Planned	H	Bin-lid colours standardised to assist with correct disposal of waste.	9.3
ZW7	Investigate funding opportunities to divert waste water from the inlet to the Golf Course and Denmark Agricultural College.	<i>Shire of Denmark Water Efficiency Action Plan (2017-2022)</i>	Assets & Sustainable Development	New	M	Identification of potential funding sources for waste water reuse to irrigate key community assets.	9.2
ZW8	Support local builders to reduce waste via recycling and reusing commercial and industrial waste as repurposed materials; including investigating licencing requirements to recycle waste from building contractors.	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	New	M	Reduced commercial and industrial waste.	9.4

ZW9	Support and encourage initiatives that promote zero plastic packaging for fruit, vegetables and associated products.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Waste & Reserves	New	L	Retailers reducing availability of plastic-packaged products to community.	9.3
ZW10	Provide compostable dog litter bags.	<i>Shire of Denmark Corporate Business Plan (2018-19 - 2021-22)</i>	Community Services – Ranger Services	Planned	M	Provision of compostable dog litter bags at relevant Shire sites (including Parry Beach).	9.3
ZW11	Investigate best practice sustainable fish cleaning, composting and offal disposal stations for installation at key Shire sites.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Community Services – Ranger Services	New	L	Investigations undertaken on feasibility of installing fish cleaning, composting and offal disposal stations at relevant Shire sites.	9.3
ZW12	Educate community on recycling and appropriate recycling techniques, including working with youth and schools (i.e. Clean up Australia Day).	<i>Great Southern Group of Councils Regional Waste Strategic Plan (2014-2018)</i>	Waste & Reserves	New	M	Increased awareness and compliance with waste recycling.	9.3

10 Zero Carbon Energy



Committing to working towards a net zero emissions target is an important step in tackling climate change.

Item	Action	Directive	Responsibility	Resourcing Required	Priority	KPI /Measure of Success	Ref
ZC1	Audit Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Shire activities and investigate purchase of software to record and audit data annually for Shire operations.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	H	Develop baseline data for carbon emissions and audit trends over time.	10.2
ZC2	Investigate purchasing arrangement with WALGA through Power Purchase Agreement to procure energy with net zero emissions through state renewable energy project proposal.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Corporate Services	New	H	Shire entering purchasing agreement with WALGA to enable purchasing power with net zero emissions from WA renewable energy project.	10.2
ZC3	Incorporate renewable energy options for Shire facilities when upgrading and undertaking new projects.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Technical Services – Assets	New	H	Conversion to installation of renewable energy options on Shire facilities.	10.1
ZC4	Investigate the use of installing solar powered lighting on public facilities.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Technical Services – Assets	New	M	Investigate and convert existing grid lighting on public facilities to solar power.	10.1

ZC5	Encourage new developments to employ percentage of reliance on renewable energy.	<i>Shire of Denmark Town Planning Scheme No. 3 Renewable Energy Systems Policy No.41 (2010)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	Existing	M	Increase in trends of renewable energy usage over time.	10.3
ZC6	Provide information to community and general public regarding battery and storage options for new residential properties.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Sustainable Development – Planning	New	M	Information made readily available to public on alternative energy options.	10.3
ZC7	Support agency and community led renewable energy initiatives, including sustainable housing awards and open days to promote best sustainable practice.	<i>Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy (2021-2031)</i>	Waste & Reserves – Sustainability	New	H	Delivery of renewable energy activities and initiatives to the community.	10.3



Sustainability Strategy Community Consultation Findings Report

"Partnerships are central to the process of sustainability."

(State Sustainability Strategy, 2003)

Contents

Working with Community	3
Sustainability Strategy Working Group	3
Community Consultation	4
Key Stakeholders	5
Community Consultation Results	6
Community Survey Responses	6
Community Engagement with Youth	11
References	16
Appendices	17

Working with Community

The Shire of Denmark defines community engagement within the *Shire of Denmark Community Engagement Policy and Framework 2015* as **"...an important process of fostering relationships between Council and the community, whereby Council shares information, consults, involves, collaborates and actively enhances community capability to influence and shape the planning and delivery of services and Council decisions."**

The Shire of Denmark is committed to working with our community to create a culture of sustainable living. This involves listening and working with the community to understand the programs and support required to foster local action. The Shire of Denmark has committed organisations and community groups who have wide ranging knowledge and experience which, when brought together, can be a valuable resource. Council will work to facilitate those connections and assist these organisations and groups to deliver better outcomes.

Sustainability Strategy Working Group

The Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy Working Group (SSWG) was Council's vehicle for engaging with community to develop a Sustainability Strategy which would work towards achieving the sustainability goals and targets identified and agreed to in the Paris Agreement. The SSWG was established in November 2017 from *Council Resolution No. 181117* with the objective of developing a Sustainability Strategy for the Shire of Denmark. The SSWG was comprised of three Councillors, eleven community member representatives through a self-nominated process with selection and appointment made by Council, the Director of Assets and Sustainable Development and the Sustainability Officer. The SSWG supported the utilisation of the One Planet Living Framework and the premise of the ten pillars of sustainability as the median by which to use to develop the *Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy and the Shire of Denmark Sustainability Action Plan*.



Photos: Sustainability Strategy Working Group
Workshop #1: 29th May 2020



Community Consultation

Community consultation on the development of the *Sustainability Strategy* involved engagement with various aspects of the community through a variety of mediums including interactive workshops and surveys. This level of engagement is supported by the principle of co-creation espoused by Bioregional, the creators of the One Planet Living Framework.

"The most effective Action Plans come from a collective process with everyone involved – whether that be staff, customers, local people, suppliers, future residents, designers, engineers and so on." (Bioregional, 2018)

Five workshops were conducted throughout the Sustainability Strategy development process; three involving the SSWG from inception through to draft strategy review and two additional interim workshops which were aimed at gaining information and feedback from various directorates from internal Shire staff.

A community online survey was conducted with the public invited to comment over a five-month period from July to December 2020. The Denmark Senior High School was approached to gain their input through a class workshop and a hard copy of the survey, as well as via an online survey. [see Appendix 1: *Shire of Denmark Sustainability Strategy Survey Questions*].

Key stakeholder groups were also directly targeted and emailed the link to the online survey to gain comments and feedback from representative groups from within the Denmark community.

Key Stakeholders

Community Representation	Community Group	Survey Medium	Date
Sustainability Strategy Working Group		Interactive workshops x 3	29 th May 2020 26 th June 2020 9 th February 2021
Internal Shire Staff Managers Meeting		Interactive workshop x 2	5 th August 2020 21 st January 2021
Denmark Senior High School		Class workshop Survey monkey	August-September 2020
Denmark Community		' <i>Bang the Table</i> ' online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
Targeted key stakeholder groups	Chamber of Commerce	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Denmark Environment Centre	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Green Skills	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Plastic Reduction Denmark	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Colin Stonehouse – Energy	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Community Resource Centre	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Rural and Regional Economic Solutions	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Denmark Weed Action Group	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	South Coast Natural Resource Management	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Department of Biodiversity and Conservation	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Denmark Community Windfarm Ltd.	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Deco-Village Ecovillage Community	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
Schools	Denmark College of Agriculture	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Steiner School	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Spirit of Play	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020
	Denmark Primary School	Email invitation to online survey	15 th July - 8 th December 2020

Table 1: Summary of Community Consultation undertaken on development of Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan

Community Consultation Results

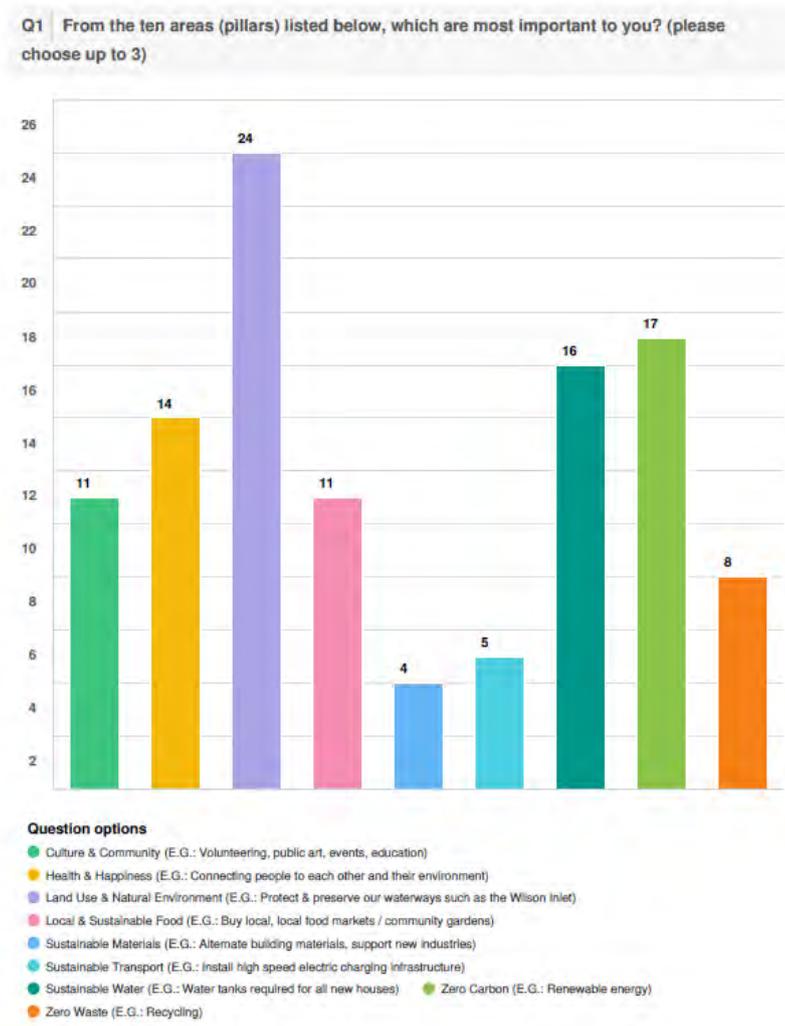
Community Survey Responses

The *Let's Plan A Sustainable Future Survey Response Report (15 July - 8 December 2020)* is the culmination of the online survey that was available on the Shire of Denmark's website through the Your Denmark community engagement forum as a means for community members to have their voice heard on the development of the Sustainability Strategy. The survey comprised of three questions:

- ❖ Question 1. From the 10 Sustainability Pillars listed choose up to three that are the most important to you.
- ❖ Question 2. What do we need to do or focus on now to improve your three priority areas?
- ❖ Question 3. Imagine the year is 2035, what is your vision for Denmark?

QUESTION 1

There was a total of 37 respondents over the five month period that the survey was made available for public comment. The predominant response to the most important sustainability pillar was that of *Land Use & Natural Environment* with 24 respondents; followed by *Zero Carbon* with 17 respondents; and then third with *Sustainable Water* with 16 respondents.



QUESTION 2

There was a total of 33 responses to the Community online survey Question 2: *What do we need to do or focus on now to improve your three priority areas?* Four respondents choose not to answer Question 2.

A common theme expressed in the narrative responses to Question 2 as to what the main foci to achieve sustainability outcomes was that the sustainability pillars are all intrinsically linked and when efforts are made in one area it has flow-on positive effects in another.

"All ten pillars are important... would be good to design a holistic program... they are all intrinsically linked... many initiatives go hand-in-hand". One cited example is that of the Shire supporting community lead sustainability initiatives, engaging and empowering community collaborations in sustainability programs, with a local focus, can lead to social development and equity outcomes, and therefore improved health, well-being and community connectedness.

The number of narrative theme responses from Question 2 correlated almost directly with the sustainability pillar priorities outlined in Question 1. The notable exception was that of *Zero Waste*, where there were more responses in Question 2 given in relation to suggestions on how to achieve *Zero Waste* as a priority sustainability pillar.

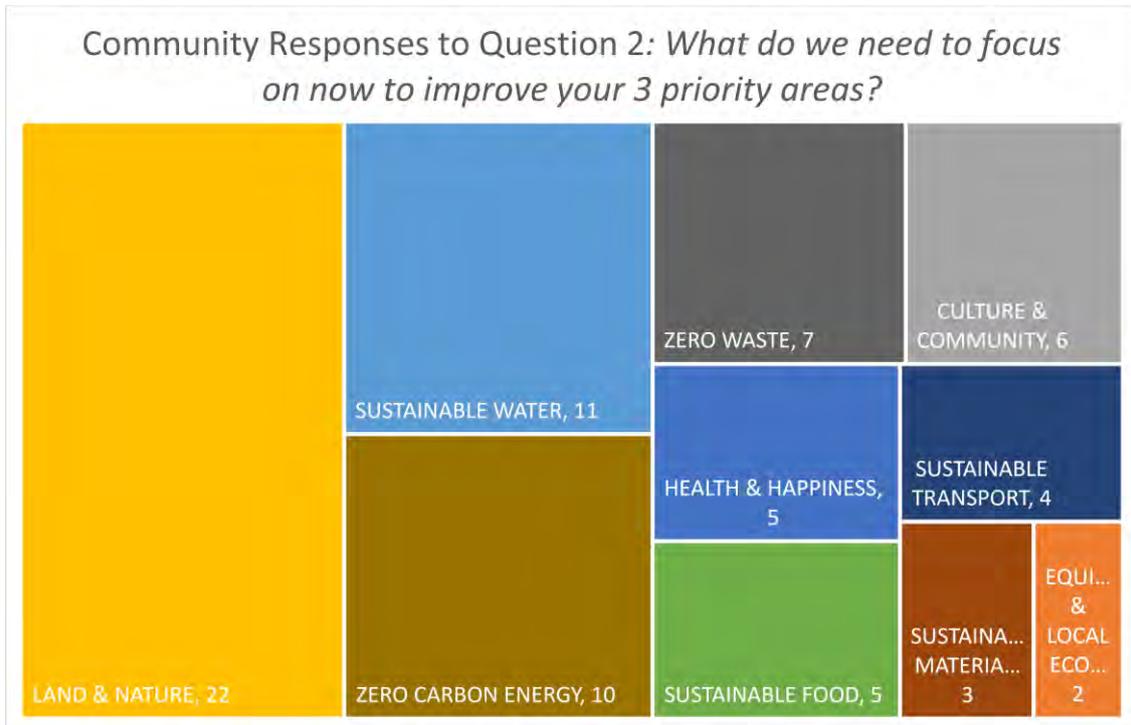


Figure 2: Community Responses to Question 2: What do we need to focus on now to improve your 3 priority areas?

Some narrative comments that express the common themes from within the ten sustainability pillar areas on what the community feel we need to focus on are as follows:

1. Health & Happiness: **"community actively involved; value our sense of place; being more connected and listening to community; affordable housing"**
2. Equity & Local Economy: **"manage tourism in line with sustainability; employ Rangers to better manage tourists"**
3. Culture & Community: **"support community initiatives; engage in cultural events; focus on youth community; support volunteering; provide incentives and policy development for sustainable cultural change"**
4. Land & Nature: **"value and preserve our unspoilt natural environment; assign amenity value to natural assets; revegetate and rehabilitate rivers, creeks and land abutting waterways; review prescribed burning regimes; policy development to guide biodiversity management and drive sustainable development; connect people with nature; educate community on natural environment"**
5. Sustainable Water: **"install water tanks on Shire buildings and on new homes; improve water catchment management; improve water treatment processes"**
6. Local & Sustainable Food: **"buy local through supporting farmers markets; support farmers and local food production"**
7. Sustainable Transport: **"invest in electric transport options for Shire; support local taxi and bus service; provide infrastructure to accommodate green transport options"**
8. Sustainable Materials: **"support business to eliminate single-use plastic; support development of and requirement to use sustainable building materials"**
9. Zero Waste: **"support new technologies for zero waste; promote recycling including provision of recycling bins and centralised location for soft plastic recycling; promote elimination of single-use coffee cups; educate community and provide information on premise of reduce, reuse, recycle"**
10. Zero Carbon Energy: **"support new technologies for zero carbon; lobby governments at all levels to address climate change; fast track climate change initiatives including carbon sequestration; promote renewable energy; support community energy initiatives"**



Figure 3: Word cloud depiction of Community Survey responses to Question 2: What do we need to focus on now to improve your 3 priority areas?

QUESTION 3:

All 37 respondents gave a descriptive answer to Question 3: *Imagine the year is 2035, what is your vision for Denmark?*

The majority of responses related to *Health & Happiness* with 41 comments referring to their vision for **Denmark as "a healthy, happy, connected inclusive community"**; followed by 36 comments relating to *Land & Nature* with frequent reference to **"protecting, maintaining and enhancing our unique natural environment"**. The third most common response was in relation to *Equity & Local Economy* with statements pertaining to **"a circular local economy with a strong base in eco-tourism"**.

Community Responses to Question 3: *Imagine it is the year 2035, what is your vision for Denmark?*

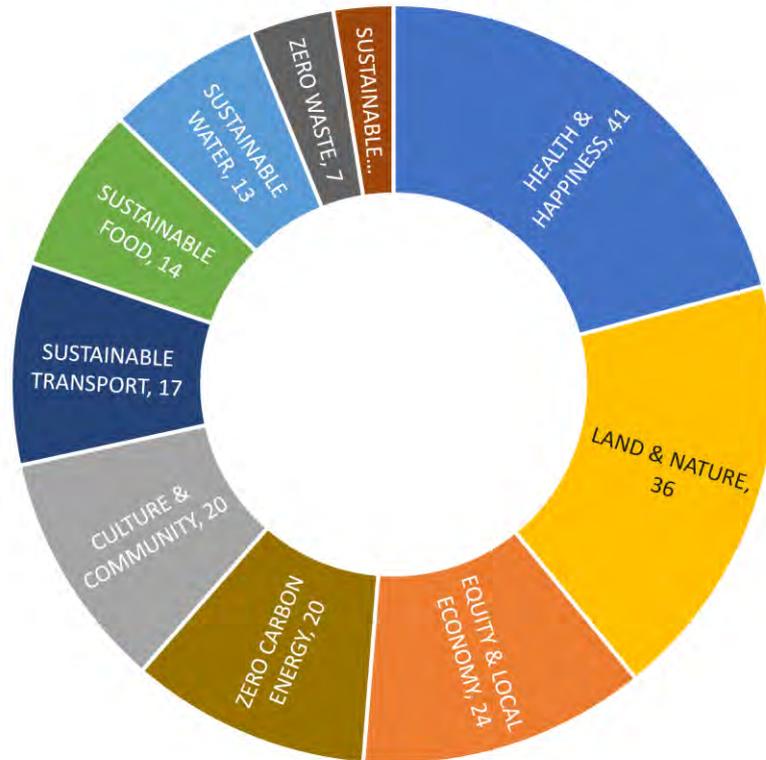


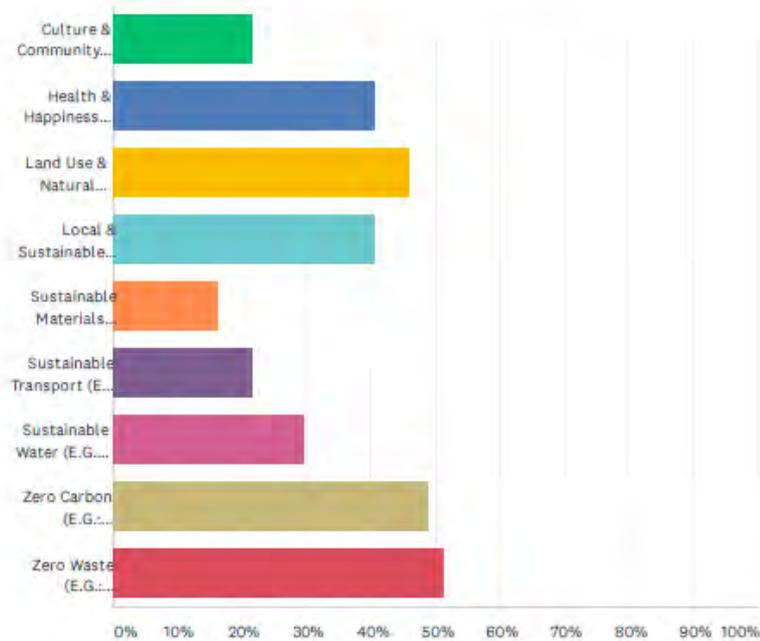
Figure 4: Community Responses to Question 3: *Imagine it is the year 2035, what is your vision for Denmark?*

The main narrative comments that express the common themes from within the 10 sustainability pillar areas on Question 3: **Community's vision for Denmark in 2035 is as follows:**

1. Health & Happiness: **"happy, healthy, connected community; inclusivity and strong sense of belonging; caring and altruistic community; conserve its village character; retain sense of identity"**
2. Equity & Local Economy: **"local businesses thrive through local support; circular thriving economy; vibrant, self-sustaining, locally owned small businesses; strong local economy; eco-tourism based local economy"**
3. Culture & Community: **"engaged close-knit community; diversity of age and cultural groups within community; place where people live lightly on the land; recognises indigenous cultural heritage"**
4. Land & Nature: **"community committed to conserving global and local environment; recognised global biodiversity hotspot; earth-care embedded in decision-making; strong environmental protection; adequate protection of forests and waterways; community education on the south coast, natural environment, wildlife, and the Wilson Inlet"**
5. Sustainable Water: **"self-sufficient waterwise community; wastewater and greywater reuse; rainwater tanks on new homes; waterwise community programs and incentives"**
6. Local & Sustainable Food: **"local produce based economy; sustainable agriculture; regenerative farming; self-sufficiency in food production"**

**Q1 From the ten (10) areas listed below, which are most important to you?
Please choose up to three (3).**

Answered: 37 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Culture & Community (E.G.: Volunteering, public art, events, education)	21.62% 8
Health & Happiness (E.G.: Community initiatives that connect people to each other and their environment)	40.54% 15
Land Use & Natural Environment (E.G.: Protect & preserve our waterways such as the Wilson Inlet)	45.95% 17
Local & Sustainable Food (E.G.: Encourage buy local, local food markets / community gardens)	40.54% 15
Sustainable Materials (E.G.: Provide community education on alternate building materials, support new industries)	16.22% 6
Sustainable Transport (E.G Install high speed electric charging infrastructure)	21.62% 8
Sustainable Water (E.G.: Water tanks required for all new houses)	29.73% 11
Zero Carbon (E.G.: renewable energy)	48.65% 18
Zero Waste (E.G.: Recycling)	51.35% 19
Total Respondents: 37	

Figure 6: Denmark Senior High School Response to Question 1: From the 10 Sustainability Pillars, which are most important to you?

QUESTION 2

There was a total of 29 responses from DSHS students to Question 2: *What do we need to do or focus on now to improve your 3 priority areas?* Eight respondents choose not to answer.

The hierarchy of responses accorded to each sustainability pillar from Question 2 correlated almost directly with the sustainability pillar priorities outlined in Question 1 by the DSHS students. The notable exception was that of *Land & Nature*, where there was only one response given in Question 2 simply stating “*care more about the environment*” as the recommendation on what we should focus on.

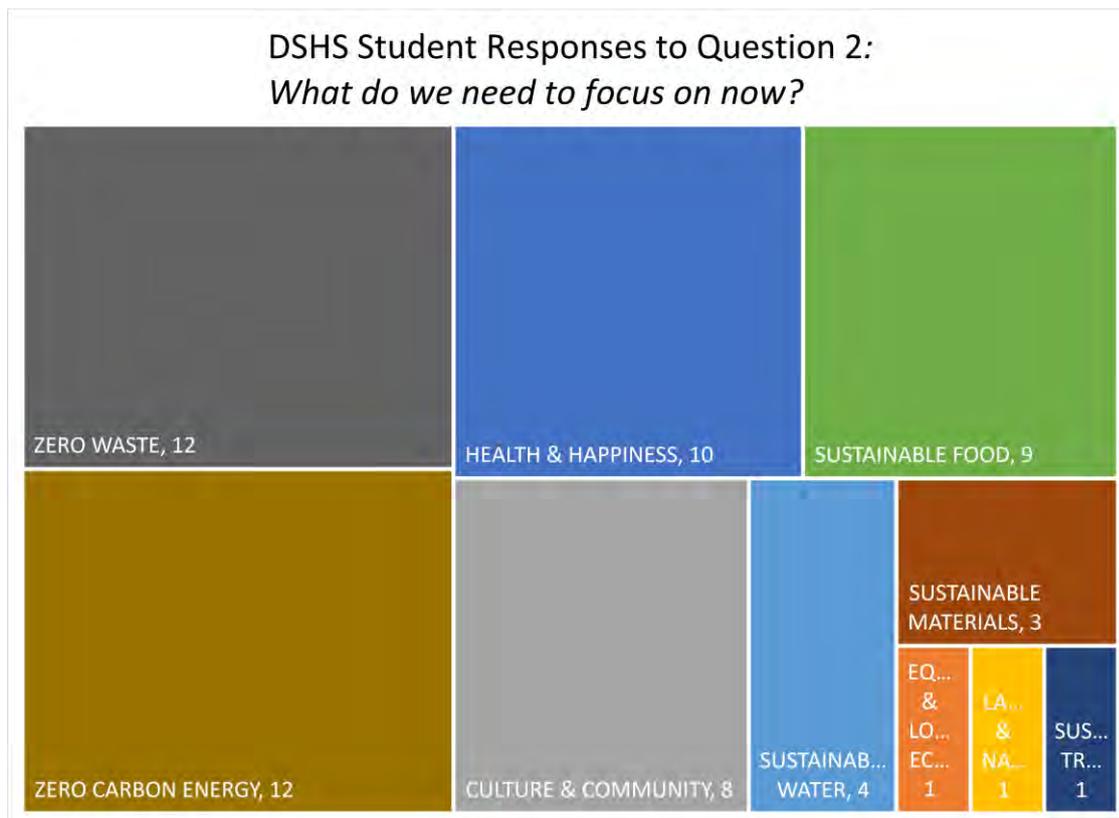


Figure 7: Denmark Senior High School (DSHS) Student Responses to Question 2: What do we need to focus on now to improve your 3 priority areas?

Some common themes that were expressed by the DSHS students in the narrative comments were as follows:

1. Health & Happiness: **"more events that connect people; community awareness and programs to involve people; activities that build teamwork; educate people on mental and physical health; open a mental health clinic; bring back the Soup Kitchen; repurpose 'Tha House' to have a community focus; ensure people in the community are equally heard"**
2. Equity & Local Economy: **"make it easier for small businesses to operate; more opportunities for small scale produces to sell and/or trade to the town"**
3. Culture & Community: **"involvement and education on how to help; community-based events; integration of school and public/community activities"**
4. Land & Nature: **"care more about the environment"**
5. Sustainable Water: **"mandatory to have a water tank; desalination plant; new water management strategy that focuses on salinity, groundwater and clean water for the community"**
6. Local & Sustainable Food: **"more prolific community farmers markets; use local produce in cooking and hospitality; grow the community garden to include input from local schools; healthy organic food at the canteen"**
7. Sustainable Transport: **"encourage electric vehicle usage"**

Denmark Senior High School Student Responses to Question 3: *Imagine it is the year 2035, what is your vision for Denmark?*

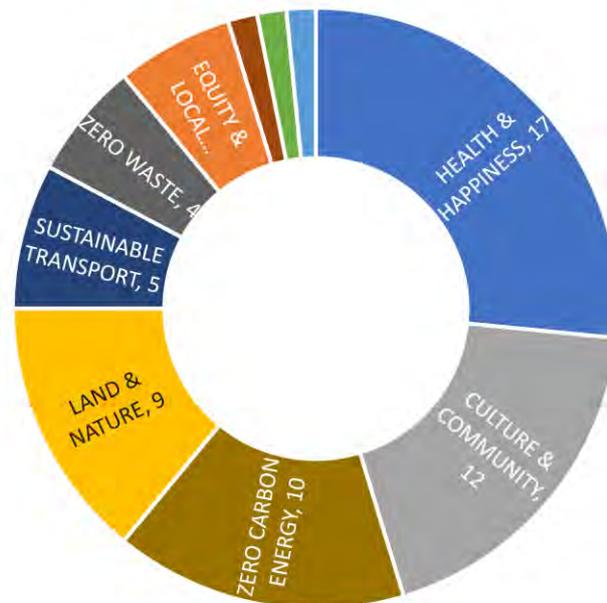
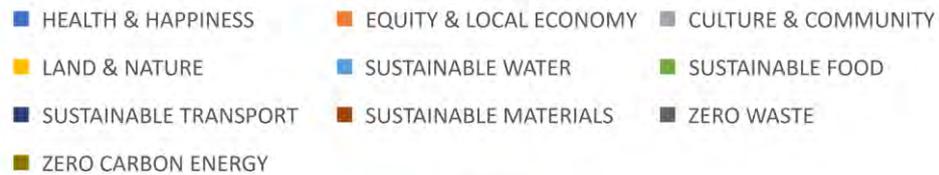


Figure 9: DSHS Student Responses to Question 3: *Imagine it is the year 2035, what is your vision for Denmark?*

The main narrative comments that express the common themes from within the 10 sustainability pillar areas on Question 3 of the DSHS student vision for Denmark in 2035 is as follows:

1. Health & Happiness: **"friendly, close-knit community; green sustainable population; healthy seaside town; access to amenities for all; mentally healthy people; appealing to younger Australians; well regulated and planned urbanisation"**
2. Equity & Local Economy: **"tourist oriented town; sustainable businesses operating; no franchises; more career opportunities; no franchises"**
3. Culture & Community: **"strong community feel; promote inclusion and socialisation; cultural diversity education in schools; community informed in all decisions; strong focus on the arts; activities that are available for young people; inviting to youth"**
4. Land & Nature: **"lots of water in our waterways; diverse flora and fauna; preserve our wonderful environment; environment cared for"**
5. Sustainable Water: **"every house to have water tanks"**
6. Local & Sustainable Food: **"everyone with a veggie patch"**
7. Sustainable Transport: **"electric cars; infrastructure for electric vehicles; improved links to Albany for public transport"**
8. Sustainable Materials: **"increase in sustainable materials"**
9. Zero Waste: **"beautiful, uncluttered area; no rubbish; recycling and composting; low waste"**

References

Bioregional, (2018). *Implementing One Planet Living: A Manual*, One Planet Living: Bioregional Australia.

Denmark Senior High School Student Responses to survey monkey August-September 2020

Shire of Denmark Community Engagement Policy and Framework 2015.

Shire of Denmark Let's Plan a Sustainable Future: Survey Response Report 15 July 2020 - 8 December 2020.

State Government of Western Australia, (2003). *Hope for the future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy*, National Library of Australia, Perth WA.



Shire of Denmark

Planning for a sustainable future

What is a sustainability Strategy?

Sustainability means different things to different people, however for this purpose Sustainability means balancing economic, social and environmental factors and setting out the key environmental priorities for the future.

Our environment are the spaces we **play in, and the places we build. It's how we get around, and the community around us. It's where we work, where we live and the natural areas around us.**

Environmental sustainability is about maintaining all the things we love and value about where we **live, work and play. It's about preserving everything that makes Denmark special, even as it grows.**

This Sustainability Strategy will guide the future vision for how we live and what we do. Your feedback will assist us to ensure future generations have the same opportunities that we enjoy today.

Sustainability Strategy survey questions:

1. From the ten areas listed below, which are most important to you? (please choose up to 3)

- Culture & Community
(E.G.: Volunteering, public art, events, education)
- Health & Happiness
(E.G.: Community initiatives that connect people to each other and their environment)
- Land Use & Natural Environment
(E.G.: Protect & preserve our waterways such as the Wilson Inlet)
- Local & Sustainable Food
(E.G.: Encourage buy local, local food markets / community gardens)
- Sustainable Materials
(E.G.: Provide community education on alternate building materials, support new industries)
- Sustainable Transport
(E.G. Install high speed electric charging infrastructure)
- Sustainable Water
(E.G.: Water tanks required for all new houses)
- Zero Carbon
(E.G.: renewable energy)
- Zero Waste
(E.G.: Recycling)

2. What do we need to do or focus on now to improve your three priority areas?

3. Imagine the year is 2035, what is your vision for Denmark?