

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The Southern Grampians Shire Sustainability Strategy 2010-2020 was developed in 2009 by a Steering Committee which included elected Councillors and community and agency leaders from the sustainability, natural resources and environmental management sectors and was adopted by Council in April 2010.

The Sustainability Strategy includes 26 strategic objectives and 104 priority strategic actions for five key themes:

- › **Land** (including biodiversity, pest plants and animals, soil health, salinity, sustainable agriculture and land use change)
- › **Water** (including water availability/security, stormwater, water quality, waterway health and water conservation)
- › **Waste** (including resource use, 'reduce, reuse, recycle', landfill and composting)
- › **Liveability** (including economic prosperity and employment, social well being, access to health, education and aged care facilities, telecommunication and transport services, governance, and being a safe and good place to live or visit)
- › **Climate** (including energy efficiency, alternative energy sources, emissions management, use of fossil fuels and adaptation to climate change).

The Strategy is directly linked to a series of existing plans and strategies such as the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan, the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, leisure plans, the Sustainable Water Use Plan, the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan, the Lake Hamilton Management Plan and the Southern Grampians Planning Scheme.



SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Implementation of the Sustainability Strategy involves all Council departments with the involvement of a number of other agencies, particularly the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA), the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Wannon Water, the South West Regional Waste Management Group (SWRWMG) and the Southern Grampians and Glenelg Primary Care Partnership (SGGPCP).

The Sustainability Strategy can be viewed by going to www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/Sustainability on the internet or copies can be obtained from the Council office at 1 Market Place, Hamilton.

CONTACT US

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www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au



SUSTAINABILITY

Southern Grampians Shire Council is embedding sustainability practices into its own operations - energy and water audits have been carried out on key facilities and a Carbon Management Plan has been developed and these are guiding improved energy and water use practices. The Council also supports residents and local businesses to become more waste-wise and more energy and water efficient.

Contact the Sustainability staff for further information and assistance relating to:

- › **Water** - Water conservation, water quality, rain water and stormwater capture and re-use, advice on state and federal rebates for tanks
- › **Waste** - Recycling, composting, worm farms, organic waste management
- › **Energy** - Energy saving products and services, greenhouse gas emission management, rebates and concessions for renewable energy - for households and businesses
- › **Carbon** - Climate change adaptation, carbon footprint management and carbon sequestration.



COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS

Southern Grampians Shire Council periodically offers grants to community organisations within the shire, whose activities contribute towards objectives detailed in the Council's 2010-2020 Sustainability Strategy.

Guidelines and an application form can be downloaded from the Grants page of the Council website or copies can be obtained from the Sustainability Coordinator.



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Native vegetation is important for the health of the land and water, flora and fauna and the community - this is why native vegetation is protected by legislation. Southern Grampians Shire Council is working in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Sustainability and Environment to protect and preserve the remaining indigenous vegetation in the Shire.

Contact the Natural Resources Officer for information on:

- › **Native Vegetation** - it is protected on private and public land and includes trees, shrubs, grasses and all other vegetation.
- › **Roadsides** - mapping of our roadsides has revealed a number of highly significant roadside areas within the Shire.
- › **Firewood** - roadsides are often the only remaining example of standing indigenous vegetation in the area. It is illegal to fell trees or remove any vegetation from Shire managed roadsides without a permit, including removing fallen timber for firewood. On high or medium conservation roadsides, permits will not be issued.
- › **Weeds** - declared weeds are species listed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994. Environmental weeds are species that escape from our gardens. They are fast spreading, difficult to contain and they often damage natural habitats.
- › **Indigenous plants** - Indigenous plants from your local area are best adapted to survive the prevailing climate, topography and soils. They often require minimal maintenance, very little fertiliser and water and make for a low maintenance garden.
- › **Reserves** - reserves form part of a greater open space system in the Shire which include the Grangeburn, Lake Hamilton, Wannon & Nigretta Scenic Reserves and the Parkland Bandicoot Enclosure.