

Golden Plains Environment Strategy (2011-2016) Activities Summary

Total Actions: 136

Actions Completed: 28

Actions Completed and Ongoing: 96

Actions Incomplete and Ongoing: 12

Total Percentage Actions Completed or Completed and Ongoing: 91%

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
AMENITY	Categorise Council Open Space according to its primary purpose (Biodiversity Reserve, Recreation Reserve, Council Depot etc.) and allocate a principal responsible management position	Current resources have not allowed progression on this task past initial investigation. This task is also tied in with the identification of all Council owned and managed assets. However all biodiversity reserves have been identified. New land also being handed to Council during development of subdivisions	Ongoing / Incomplete
AMENITY	Conduct a review of Council owned and managed land to identify and categorise the asset.	A review of all Council owned and managed land has been discussed across corporate services and the Environment team. However this is a significant project and resource capabilities have impeded progress at this point. Further investigations will continue but it likely this will be a project conducted across several departments. This project would benefit from engaging a short term project officer.	Ongoing / Incomplete
AMENITY	Conduct a review of leasing and licencing processes for Council owned or managed land	Officers have commenced an asset matching process to ensure Council is receiving the correct income from the use of various properties under lease. Standard lease documentation has been developed. A standard lease is available and a minimal fee structure. Document control is managed by Corporate Services. Council managed land is leased though the standard DELWP lease document with their approval.	Ongoing / Complete
AMENITY	Initiate a program of naming and sign posting Council's reserves	Several reserves have had signage installed (e.g. Redgum reserve, Old Batesford Cemetery, Bakers lane	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
		Reserve, Rokewood Common, Rokewood Reservoir, Teesdale Grassy Woodlands). Project is ongoing.	
AMENITY	Promote neighbourly relationships through development of information sheets on: Responsible pet ownership, Recreational vehicle use, Unsightly properties, Dust, odour, smoke and noise	Information sheets reviewed and updated 2015. However new local law put in place in 2017 so all sheets will need further review and updates	Ongoing / Complete
AMENITY	Promote neighbourly relationships through Council media regarding: Responsible pet ownership, Recreational vehicle use, Unsightly properties, Dust, odour, smoke and noise	Various gazette articles and social media correspondence throughout the year addresses these communication requirements.	Ongoing / Complete
AMENITY	Discourage rubbish dumping at identified hotspots	Fence erected at Burnside Rd hotspot. Investigations into rubbish dumping have been undertaken as required. An SOP on use of surveillance cameras was developed, however the SOP was not adopted due to an inability to meet restrictive privacy requirements.	Ongoing / Complete
AMENITY	Council to support Clean up Australia Day and other community waste reduction/collection activities	Clean up Australia Day currently supported by Council, kit delivered as required. Waste reduction initiatives conducted included: Clean Up Australia Day promotion, Litter reduction strategy developed through HRWMG, Audits and education roll outs on household recycling collections.	Ongoing / Complete
AMENITY	Monitor building sites to ensure waste management complies with litter laws	Investigations undertaken by Councils Investigations officer and Community Protection Officers. Follow up undertaken when required.	Ongoing / Complete
AMENITY	Provide and communicate collection points for mobile phones and small batteries	Mobile Muster box is provided at Customer Service Centres	Ongoing / Complete
AMENITY	Assist neighbours to resolve amenity related disputes (e.g. barking dogs, motorbikes, odour, unsightly properties)	This service is provided routinely	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
AMENITY	Develop a strategy for roadside litter collection	Litter investigations undertaken as required. Local Laws developed for offences regarding litter. Articles on rubbish control and public amenity have also been placed in the gazette. A SOP was initially developed for the use of surveillance cameras in dumping hotspots for prosecution purposes, but the management was regarded to onerous due to privacy legislation requirements and was not pursued for adoption. Currently CPOs will gather evidence from dumping and remove small amounts of litter, while larger amounts are allocated to the works department to remove.	Ongoing / Complete
AMENITY	Develop and implement a Council Policy on the management of Unsightly properties	Sub clause in Local Law developed that specifically deals with this issue.	Complete
AMENITY	Develop and implement a Council Policy on the use of recreational vehicles on private land	Sub clause in Local Law developed that specifically deals with this issue. Also, current planning restrictions are in place to limit use of recreational vehicles to land categorised for that use if no dwelling exists.	Complete
AMENITY	Develop and implement a Domestic Animal Management Plan that responds to the low levels of registration and encourages the containment and control of cats and dogs.	Domestic Animal Management Plan developed	Complete
AMENITY	Provide access to cat traps for residents and community groups	New traps purchased and new system applied to provide free cat trapping service to residents in Nov 2012.	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Conduct a biodiversity audit of Council owned and managed land	No funding stream available to undertake this action at current time. In part this project is tied in with the general audit of all Council land (discussed under Amenity)	Ongoing / Incomplete
BIODIVERSITY	Investigate opportunities to establish firewood plantations to provide residents with an alternative to extracting firewood from forests	Tied in with the Identification of Council owned and managed land project (significant further resource required to undertake this project), however this project seems unviable.	Ongoing / Incomplete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
BIODIVERSITY	Establish a process for auditing and enforcing planning permits that involved native vegetation removal	Included in Planning Permit Audit Process. Investigations undertaken when required, however resources are inadequate to audit all planning applications.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Conduct biennial roadside biodiversity management training for outdoor staff and contractors	Toolbox meetings have been conducted with works staff regarding biodiversity assets on roadsides. Biodiversity training program for works staff also undertaken	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Incorporate waterway frontages into Council ownership at time of subdivision	Somerset, Willowbrae and Batesford subdivisions have all secured water frontages for public open space.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Support existing service providers to conduct public workshops on environmental management	Support available upon request however none required at this point in time.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Manage Grazing on Roadsides with High or Very High Conservation Significance to promote biodiversity	Permit controls for roadside grazing exist. Roadside Environmental Management Plan also addresses this issue.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Undertake audit of road construction and maintenance activities to ensure they follow the Standard Operating Procedure for protection of native vegetation during and after road works	Environment team works in conjunction with Works department on current road works program. Environmental Roadside Management Plan and Code of Practice developed.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Advocate for improved flows in the Moorabool River and other waterways in the Shire	Council advocated for improved water security from Central Highlands Water resulting in more consistent release of dedicated environmental flows for Barwon water. Part of ongoing advocacy and lobbying program with Members of Parliament; Council also made recent submission on the State Governments Water plan to maintain the existing Barwon water flows into the Moorabool.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Promote biodiversity values and programs such as Land for Wildlife and Trust for Nature through Council media	Council supports local conservation group programs and Trust for Nature on its webpages. Various gazette articles and correspondence throughout the year addresses these communication requirements.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
BIODIVERSITY	Promote local conservation groups and initiatives through Council media	Council supports local conservation group programs and supplies links to Landcare networks on its webpages. Various gazette articles and correspondence throughout each year addresses these communication requirements.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Promote and encourage participation in conservation incentive schemes implemented by other organisations through Council media	Council supports local conservation group programs and supplies links to Landcare Networks on its webpages.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Develop Management Plans for Council properties with significant biodiversity values	Management Plans endorsed by Council for Teesdale Grassy woodlands, Redgum Reserve and Bruces Creek	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Provide support to schools for events such as National School Tree Day, Arbor Week and World Environment Day	Successfully completed. GPS provides trees for school tree day	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Support local community groups involved in biodiversity enhancement projects	Community grants allocated to appropriate community group biodiversity enhancement programs. Council also assists community groups through providing resources (trees, administration, advertising etc.)	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Work with other managers of environmentally significant land to enhance biodiversity values	Council works with CFA and DELWP when required, to continue to enhance grassland communities through application of prescribed burning.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Establish revegetation guidelines for properties adjoining parks and reserves to minimise the risk of weed invasion	This requirement needs to be addressed through planning permit conditions. Information sheets on appropriate indigenous revegetation available on Council website and for release with permits.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Investigate a rate rebate for land subject to a conservation covenant	Investigations undertaken into rate rebate program undertaken in other municipalities. However, it is currently believed that this is not politically or financially viable. Business case developed and awaiting appropriate timing for release.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
BIODIVERSITY	Establish a policy on Councils response to illegal clearing of native vegetation	Several major changes have occurred to native vegetation removal provisions from the State Government, in the last three years, including a new revision of that is currently being developed. It is difficult to develop a policy during this time of State revision. However, all known cases of illegal vegetation removal are investigated and first or third party offsets based on the provision value are pursued in addition to the PIN for removal.	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Review and update the Vegetation Protection Overlay in the Golden Plains Planning Scheme	VPO mapping completed as part of the Roadside Biodiversity project. As there significant changes to the identified high conservation roadsides (i.e. more than 20 under the planning scheme is considered significant change) a complete review of the VPO is required (as opposed to just updating the actual associated mapping).	Ongoing / Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Undertake early assessment of biodiversity values of Council land investments and developments (roads, buildings, subdivisions, tourism developments, infrastructure upgrades or developments)	Environmental officers involved in assessment of subdivision applications and road development providing comments to planning department regarding environmental and fire prevention concerns via Internal referral forms. Sustainable Assets Officer position also developed to ensure greater compliance across works and planning areas with environmental legislation and concerns.	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Investigate an Environmental Significance Overlay for standing and ephemeral wetlands	Preliminary discussions held with planning unit, however considered unnecessary. ESO's currently exist for watercourses but not wetlands. Current resources have constrained further project development. New native vegetation provisions also recognise wetlands within the mapping assessments. Federal legislative protections also exist.	Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
BIODIVERSITY	Investigate adoption of a Planning Overlay to protect Koala habitat	Initial Koala overlay investigations undertaken with mapping developed. However, more appropriate vegetation protection overlays (i.e. scattered tree protection policy) have also been discussed in light of the new native vegetation provisions - i.e. all vegetation removal including scattered tree removal assessed during the planning permit application stage.	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Review and update the Environmental Significance Overlay(s) in the Golden Plains Planning Scheme	Environmental Significance Overlay reviewed in 2015	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Conduct detailed biodiversity mapping of Golden Plains Shire roadsides and incorporate into Council's Geographic Information System	mapping Completed and available for all users	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Review significant roadside vegetation signage to ensure it accurately reflects on ground occurrence of significant native vegetation	Interpretive signage around significant vegetation on roadsides developed. Current signage being mapped in line with conservation mapping program	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Provide strategic interpretive signage to promote the biodiversity values of Golden Plains Shire	Interpretive signage around significant vegetation on roadsides developed. Current signage being mapped in line with conservation mapping program	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Develop and distribute information to new residents to explain the rights, opportunities and obligations that accompany land ownership in Golden Plains Shire (tree removal, weed control, fire prevention)	Environmental Page developed in the new resident's handbook explaining roles and responsibilities around environmental themes, community protection and fire prevention.	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Develop a GIS based significant tree register derived from the National Trust Tree Register	GIS mapping for Significant Tree Register developed and continuously being updated as new information is obtained.	Complete
BIODIVERSITY	Develop a GIS based significant biosite register derived from DSE biosite maps	Current mapping of bio sites in line with Department of Environment , Land , Water and Planning	Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
BIODIVERSITY	Seek funding to implement actions for biodiversity enhancement on high conservation significance roadsides and properties	Funding secured to develop an environmental roadside management plan for the long term protection of biodiversity on all roadsides. Roadside mapping, training and awareness raising programs also associated with this funding. Project was completed and delivered in 2016	Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Advocate for the development of a 'lighthouse' energy and water efficient subdivision within the Shire	The planning department continue to look for ways to advocate for energy and water efficient subdivisions. Officers now attend Ballarat and Geelong based working groups in relation to Integrated Water Cycle Management. Officers advocate for sustainable infrastructure contributions as part of the assessment of the Somerset Estate and all future developments.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Advocate for better financial returns to individuals and businesses that generate energy and contribute to the grid	Completed as part of Mt Mercer windfarm project. Part of ongoing advocacy and lobbying program with Members of Parliament. Included in advocacy programs when appropriate. Not a priority in delivering the Council Plan agenda for economic development. Meetings with politicians and public servants have emphasised the importance of small scale renewable energy incentives.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Advocate for the development of a G21 based Greenhouse Alliance	Council continues its representation in the Environmental Pillar of the G21 and will continue to advocate for climate related actions. Major projects for the G21 (such as the Climate Resilient Communities Project) have superseded the development of the Green house Alliance.	Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Advocate for the development of reticulated natural gas within the Shire.	Council advocacy resulted in Bannockburn being included in State Government funded program to deliver a reticulated natural gas system to rural townships. Achieved connection of natural gas to Bannockburn and continuing to advocate for delivery to other parts of the Shire.	Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Install energy efficient fittings and appliances into any new or redeveloped Council facilities	Investigations have been undertaken into sustainable energy solutions for council buildings, including retrofitting. Several energy audit reports developed for Council buildings. However, resource and financial constraints, and potential relocation of staff have seen no physical developments in this area.	Ongoing / Incomplete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Develop a Sustainable Purchasing policy to guide purchasing decisions	Investigations have been undertaken into use of biodiesel for vehicles by procurement officer. Investigations have been undertaken into environmental management requirements with procurement in relation to contractors; however no general sustainable procurement policy currently exists or has been undertaken. A project regarding imbedding sustainable design into Council infrastructure decision making is being undertaken through Councils participation in the Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West (CRC). This is an ongoing project that has limited resources prior to the inception of the CRC project.	Ongoing / Incomplete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Develop and apply a 'Sustainable Design Scorecard' to all Council developments.	Investigations into this area are ongoing but impeded by resource constraints. State Government controls (ie mandatory 6 star energy ratings) also now exist in the regards to buildings.	Ongoing / Incomplete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Establish a recording system and annual audit of Council greenhouse gas emissions	Investigations undertaken, with records of energy use and expenditure currently recorded, however resource constraints have not allowed for further project development.	Ongoing / Incomplete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Promote plastic bag free townships with the assistance of local community groups, industry and business	Council advocates both stallholders and visitors to the Golden Plains Farmers' Markets use reusable carry bags for their produce. Council promotes this through the monthly market newsletters. Further work is required to fully achieve this objective.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Investigate opportunities to offset fleet greenhouse emissions through Council implemented revegetation programs or existing structures such as Greenfleet	Investigations into this area are ongoing but impeded by resource constraints. Investigations have been taken into other emission reductions such as using biodiesel.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Investigate sourcing a portion of Council's energy needs from accredited green energy sources	Investigations into this area are ongoing but impeded by resource constraints. This action is also subject to current procurement contracts in place with energy providers.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Support the staff 'Sustainability Team' to guide and drive sustainability initiatives in Council operations	The sustainability team lost its momentum due to resource constraints (financial and physical). The Environment team commits its ongoing support in this area. Recently the team was reinvigorated and retitled the 'Green Team'. Several small projects around resource use are now being undertaken by the team.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Develop a policy on energy efficient lighting including support for the MAV Greenlight campaign.	A business case has been developed by Council in conjunction with G21 Council toward the gradual replacement of street lights as required. As such Council has currently allocated \$30,000 to replacing faulty street lights with energy efficient LED bulbs. A study by "ironbark" consulting revealed Council would need to supply at least \$180,000 over three years for conversion of all 702 public lights within the municipality.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Promote the development of Transition Town initiatives within the community	Transition town initiatives considered by community planning groups. This initiative has not been requested by local communities. Environmental projects are included in their community plans.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Promote energy conservation/emission reduction programs through Council media	Council works with local business and industry groups to promote the reduction of emissions as outlined in the 'The Victorian Local Government Guide to Reducing Carbon Emissions' document. The document's main aim is to promote the actions of; avoid, reduce, switch. Internally, Council also works to	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
		support these actions. The Community Transport program, provision of staff bicycles and efficient vehicles in Council's car pool are examples emission reduction actions undertaken. Council also participated in the development of the Sustainability Guide for the region, which was advertised on Councils website and made available for all persons at Council operated buildings (service centres, library etc.)	
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Encourage staff to minimise resource consumption, maximise recycling opportunities and develop a resource use audit system to monitor paper, power, fuel and water consumption.	Energy audits have been conducted at all Council facilities and action plans developed to reduce carbon emissions. Staff survey recently completed by Ironbark on Staff attitudes and resource use at work and at home. Sustainable living materials are also available on the Council website. However, no further action due to no inadequate resources (i.e. no Sustainability Officer).	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Develop a policy that incorporates fuel efficiency considerations into the purchase of Council plant and equipment	Council has undertaken considerable research into fuel procurement for plant and also has a policy on LPG and Diesel vehicles. Options also exist for staff with vehicles to make a 'green' vehicle purchase.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Maintain Councils Policy promoting the use of fuel efficient vehicles for Council's Vehicle fleet	Continue to purchase vehicles for the Shire that produce the greatest efficiency within their class, that are suitable for the purpose intended and continues to promote the "Green Incentive" to private vehicle use employees, currently at approximately 70%. Council is continuing its obligation under its vehicle policy to endorse the use of fuel efficient vehicles across its light fleet. All non-private use vehicles that include Pool, Councillor, Special Use Vehicles (Building, Maternal Child Health etc.), as well as Outdoor staff utilities, are all within the "Green Incentive" guidelines. In addition, of the 28 staff who are entitled to private use vehicles, 13 have chosen and qualify for the "Green Incentive". A further 2	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
		staff have chosen “Green Vehicles”, but do not qualify for the incentive due to the cost limitations within their respective banding entitlements. The policy results in direct savings to Council and environmental benefits for the wider community.	
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Provide information to residents on ways of reducing and off-setting their carbon footprint through Council media	Sustainable living materials available on the Council website. However, no further action due to no inadequate resources.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Encourage development of sustainable waste management technologies within the Shire (Biochar , large scale composting)	The Executive Unit undertook work with planning staff on trials of large scale static composting techniques. Support is also being given to the development of the Sustainability Victoria Bio-energy Project. It is part of our advocacy program with business investors to explore avenues for decreasing energy and water use. The Food Production Precinct has an emphasis on synergistic development to ensure maximum use of resources such as land and water to produce multiple agricultural outcomes. Many discussions with potential developers are undertaken, however at this stage none have come to fruition.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Encourage large scale alternative energy generation projects within the Shire	Mt Mercer windfarm in operation. New large scale windfarm close to Rokewood is currently being negotiated. Economic Development working with investors on bio energy from anaerobic digester of waste material such as chicken litter. A by-product is marketable compost. Project achieved at Werneth and included in promotional material for the Food Production Precinct.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Work with other agencies to promote a coordinated approach to carbon emission reduction objectives	Party to 'Climate resilient Communities' project with about 20 other partners including Councils and state agencies and authorities. There is continuous consultation with relevant third parties regarding possible funding opportunities. However most State government funding is now based	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
		around adaptation rather than mitigation. As such no current opportunities exist at this point in time. State Government Climate Change Adaptation Plan just released (2017) with potential funding sources to come.	
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Support and source grants for community emissions reductions initiatives	There is continuous consultation with relevant third parties regarding possible funding opportunities. However most State government funding is now based around adaptation rather than mitigation. As such no current opportunities exist at this point in time. There may be some opportunity with the Federal Governments 'Direct Action' Plan, however this will be focused in an reverse auction scenario in which GPS may not be very competitive. Resource constraints also currently apply for this action.	Ongoing / Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Encourage local level energy generation (solar, wind, geothermal) projects	Mt Mercer windfarm in operation. New large scale windfarm close to Rokewood is currently being negotiated.	Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Sign up to the Sustainability Accord	Council has been active in the sustainability accord (now rebranded as the Climate Change Grants) process through participation with the Climate Resilient Communities of the Barwon South West project and Future Landscapes.	Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Investigate incorporation of alternative energy systems to provide a proportion of Council's energy requirements	Council has undertaken several investigations into alternative energy options (Ironbark energy surveys on Council buildings) A proportion of 2014/15 Environment Strategy Budget was allocated to the installation of a Solar Array at the Well. Another significant proportion of the Environment budget was allocated in the 2015/16 year to sustainable design features in the upgrade at the Well.	Complete
EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT	Maintain association with ICLEI and utilise its programs as they become available	ICLEI membership fees of approximately \$1000 were considered too high for the amount of resource	Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
		provided back. Other free partnerships such as Climate Resilient communities (10 municipalities) and Future Landscapes (5 municipalities) have provided far better resources and value for money without annual membership fees. As such membership has currently been put on hold while its value is reassessed.	
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Advocate for adequate Federal funding for CPI Indexed Stewardship schemes that would allow adequate compensation to landholders for land lost to environmental improvements	Investigations have been undertaken into rate rebate schemes for properties that have section 173 agreements placed on title through bodies such as trust for nature; however this has not been advocated at a federal level.	Ongoing / Incomplete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Provide free indigenous seedlings through local nurseries to landholders	Seedlings provided to suitable projects upon request. Program could be further designed and implemented.	Ongoing / Complete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Advocate on changes to environmental legislation that may affect sustainable farming practices	As part of the consideration of the planning zone reforms our planning team prepared submissions strongly advocating for the protection of viable farming land. No change.	Ongoing / Complete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Advocate on behalf of local Landcare groups for increased funding for co-ordinators and on ground works	Council advocates for the continued and increased funding of Landcare Networks as required. Council committed \$15,000 in support to land care projects this financial year	Ongoing / Complete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Promote participation in Landcare through Council media	Council regularly networks with Landcare on their communication requirements and assist when required. Information and links also available on Council website.	Ongoing / Complete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Promote revegetation with indigenous species through Council media	Indigenous revegetation guides promoted on Council Website	Ongoing / Complete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Seek opportunities to coordinate works with the Woody Yaloak Catchment Project, Leigh Catchment Group and the Geelong Landcare Network	Works around weed control, general networking around possible funding and discussions around training opportunities has been undertaken with all these groups.	Ongoing / Complete
SUSTAINABLE	Seek opportunities and partnerships to provide	Community grants program active for Landcare projects. Land capability	Ongoing /

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
FARMING	continued financial support to Landcare	study funding sourced to compliment Landcare group actions	Complete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Support local Landcare networks and groups	Community grants allocated to appropriate community group biodiversity programs. Funding has been provided to three Landcare networks in recent years. Networking also undertaken with Landcare networks over funding opportunities in to land capability study.	Ongoing / Complete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Provide annual incentive funding to schools for indigenous revegetation projects as part of National Tree Day	Successfully completed. GPS provides trees for school tree day	Ongoing / Complete
SUSTAINABLE FARMING	Support the establishment of local Farmers Markets	This has been achieved via: (1) Partnerships with the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival to promote local markets; (2) Delivery of the Farmers' Market Feasibility Study; (3) Delivery of the Bannockburn Farmers' Market; and (4) Delivery of the Smythesdale Farmers' Market. Smythesdale market trial complete. Golden Plains Farmers' Market will remain with the one location in Bannockburn.	Complete
FIRE	Develop a Communications Strategy for relaying fire related information to new and existing residents including signage of 'no through roads'.	Draft Communication strategy objectives achieved through various publicity and awareness raising initiatives during the development of the MFMP and throughout fire season (e.g. website info, social media release, gazette publications consultation). Fire information also promoted on the Council new residents booklet. Maintenance on Fire Access Tracks and related signage also undertaken. This is an ongoing action; actions related to each financial year have been undertaken. No thru signs installed as roads identified. No formal program of reviewing roads and signage in place. Information about fire season communicated through Gazette.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
FIRE	Educate residents about fire preparedness and appropriate fuel management in line with CFA guidelines and the Native Vegetation Management Framework	Information provided during lead up to fire danger period in Gazette and on Council Website. Fire information also promoted on the Council new residents booklet. Information also distributed upon request.	Ongoing / Complete
FIRE	Develop strengthened partnerships between Council, DSE and CFA to encourage controlled burning of local reserves	Council networks closely with CFA and DEPI regarding burning Council reserves. Bakers Lane Reserve and Teesdale Grassy Woodlands have been burnt in recent years.	Ongoing / Complete
FIRE	Review Municipal Strategic Firebreaks and their management in consultation with CFA	This review has been undertaken in line with the VFRR and CFA as part of the larger general review of the Municipal Fire Management Plan. Breaks will continue to be reviewed regularly.	Ongoing / Complete
FIRE	Develop a rolling Roadside Fuel Reduction Burning Plan for Municipal Strategic Fire Breaks	Undertaken in conjunction with the CFA and MFMP	Ongoing / Complete
FIRE	Incorporate fuel reduction burning as part of a biodiversity enhancement program for forest and grassland areas under Council management	Undertaken in line with existing management plans and in conjunction with the CFA. Fire Management Plan in place for Teesdale Grassy Woodlands	Ongoing / Complete
FIRE	Establish a process for auditing and enforcing planning permit applications that have enacted the provisions of the Wildfire Management Overlay	This has been undertaken as part of the Planning Permit Audit process.	Ongoing / Complete
FIRE	Liaise with DSE, CMA, CFA, neighbouring landholders and research bodies to develop burning regimes to optimise roadside fuel load management and biodiversity outcomes	Municipal Fire Break program currently exists in partnership with CFA through the MFMP. This is ongoing project constantly undertaken in conjunction with the CFA, DELWP and landholders as opportunities arise.	Ongoing / Complete
FIRE	Maintain and improve natural ecosystems on Council owned or managed land; including roadsides, through the application of appropriate burning regimes	Working with CFA and DELWP when required, to continue to enhance grassland communities through application of prescribed burning. Appropriate management plans also developed for biodiversity assets such as Teesdale Grassy Woodland which incorporate burning as a management method.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
ECONOMIC LAND USE	Develop and distribute a pre-purchase information pack and checklist to assist prospective vendors and purchasers of properties in the Shire	Fact Sheets developed on: An overview of the Golden Plains Shire, population of the Golden Plains Shire and Development in the Golden Plains Shire. These sheets are made available to real-estate agents and online.	Ongoing / Complete
ECONOMIC LAND USE	Incorporate conditions on Planning Permits for subdivisions that require protection of significant biodiversity and degraded land to be repaired (E.g. salinity, erosion, weeds)	This action is undertaken as part of the planning process. Information requests have also been made to neighbouring municipalities regarding these types of standard conditions. This is linked to the action regarding subdivisions	Ongoing / Complete
ECONOMIC LAND USE	Manage development within and close to native bushland areas to minimise impact on native vegetation and reduce the impact of wildfire	Undertaken in line with planning process, native vegetation requirements and fire prevention requirements. This is linked to the action regarding subdivisions	Ongoing / Complete
ECONOMIC LAND USE	Consider land capability when considering Planning Scheme amendments to protect high value agricultural land and maintain access to earth resources	Funding sourced through the State Government to undertake a land capability project titled Future Landscapes in partnership with several neighbouring municipalities (Hepburn, Moorabool and Pyrenees). This project was completed in 2016 although it would benefit from further mapping. Current practices take into consideration a range of land capability requirements at the planning permit application review stage.	Ongoing / Complete
ECONOMIC LAND USE	Promote local industry and business participation in sustainability programs and adoption of sustainable practices	Council works closely with local business and industry groups through outlets such as Chamber of Commerce, Committees and Business Victoria to promote the use of sustainable practices. Previously achieved via: (1) The provision of support for VIC 1000 Village Green Program; (2) Two Bannockburn Businesses winning VIC 1000 Village Green Awards; (3) The provision of support for other programs such as "grow me the money;" and (4) The provision of support for Nature and Outdoor projects. (5) encouraging and working with sustainable businesses to establish in the Shire e.g. renewable energy	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
		<p>(6) referring businesses through to Government funded programs (e.g. Sustainability Victoria) that assist businesses to adopt sustainable practices</p> <p>(7) promoting programs such as Victorian Energy Compare to households and businesses</p>	
ECONOMIC LAND USE	Encourage and maintain sustainable industry, business and agriculture	<p>The Golden Plains Food Production Precinct received \$11.78 million in funding to build an 18km water pipeline. This precinct will provide opportunities to develop sustainable industries in intensive agriculture and complementary industries.</p> <p>The Economic Development Unit is also working on encouraging a range of industries to locate in Golden Plains Shire to provide employment for local people. The 2013-17 Economic Development Strategy was completed, and a new strategy is currently being developed.</p> <p>This has also been achieved via:</p> <p>(1) Provision of support for VIC 1000 Village Green Program;</p> <p>(2) Two Bannockburn Businesses winning VIC 1000 Village Green Awards;</p> <p>(3) Provision of support for other programs such as "grow me the money";</p> <p>(4) Provision of support for Nature and Outdoor projects;</p> <p>(5) Provision of ongoing updates to the agribusiness cluster including those regarding the Carbon Farming Scheme; and</p> <p>(6) Facilitation of Keyline Agriculture events and GPS cropping event.</p> <p>(7) Future Landscapes project looking into sustainable agriculture and land capability also completed in 2016.</p> <p>(8) promoting the Victorian Government's Sustainability Awards and encouraging local businesses to apply</p> <p>(9) working with the G21 Agribusiness Forum and Cultivate Agribusiness on partnership projects and to cross-promote sustainable projects and</p>	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
		programs (10) promoting businesses with sustainable and innovative practices at Golden Plains Business Networking Events (organised by Council's economic development team).	
ECONOMIC LAND USE	Incorporate environmental considerations in to the MSS	Environmental considerations have been incorporated into the MSS	Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Develop a Stack site management standard operating procedure	Roadside survey undertaken that has mapped current extent and location of existing stack sites. Management plans in line with mapping to be developed, meetings between works and environment have established a management team.	Ongoing / Incomplete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Establish and apply documentation to all lessees to clarify terms, conditions and expectations associated with managing pest plants and animals while occupying Council properties	Linked into the study on identifying all Council owned and managed land. However all leasees expected and told to manage any significant weed issue	Ongoing / Incomplete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Seek funding to implement two part time Land Management Facilitator positions to improve weed control and land management within township and peri-urban boundaries	No funding currently available beyond current facilitation process with NRO and Landcare/friends groups. Other working group initiatives being investigated (Green Army, Workmate etc)	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Advocate to the State Government for an increase in pest plant and animal control compliance activities on private land within the Shire	Advocate action. No Government processes to feed in to. Council continues to advocate for increased awareness around roles and responsibilities of private landholders regarding weed control.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Advocate to the State Government for an increase in pest plant and animal control on Crown Land	Advocate actions undertaken as appropriate. However significant cuts in DEPI staff (2014) at a State level have seen a decrease in appropriate actions. While no funding for Crown land, funding has been obtained for roadside weed control.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Develop a Pest Plant and Animal Management Strategy for land owned or managed by Golden Plains Shire and establish a coordinated implementation program	Environment strategy and various site specific management plans in place.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Promote pest plant and animal control through Council media	Information provided in the new residents handbook and regularly in the gazette	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Promote Council Environmental Information Sheets through Council media	Environmental Information sheets (available on website) regularly promoted through the Gazette.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Promote State Government pest plant and animal control programs (e.g. Weedbuster week) through Council media	Council has promoted the roadside weed management program partially funded by State government at various Landcare network meetings. Other programs such as the Gorse task force are also regularly promoted. Currently due to substantial cuts there are very little other programs to promote.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Report occurrences of new or emerging weeds (e.g. Mexican Feather Grass) on private land or public land to DPI	Undertaken as required.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Undertake weed mapping program of priority Regionally Controlled, Regionally Prohibited and priority Environmental weeds on roadsides	Weed mapping of core weed infestations undertaken by the Natural Resource Officer. Biodiversity Mapping of all municipal roadsides also completed.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Systematically document land management information on weeds and rabbits and incorporate in to Geographic Information System mapping	Currently being undertaken when necessary with main focus on operations and retrospective GIS records. Updates made as information becomes available.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Work with DSE and research organisations to develop effective methods of controlling invasive plant species in native grasslands	Low priority as fire is currently being used to control pest plants. However control programs in effect on Council managed land. Council welcomes additional expert knowledge and information on changing management systems when available. Consultation with DELWP is constantly undertaken to ensure Council methods are in line with best practice.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Continue to control weeds on Council owned or managed land	Inspections and works undertaken by Natural Resource Officer on Council reserves. Weed control works undertaken during annual roadside weed control program and on Council reserves.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Continue annual rabbit harbour management on Council owned or managed land	Inspections and works undertaken by Natural Resource Officer on Council reserves. Rabbit control works undertaken at several locations including: Inverleigh, Teesdale, Batesford and Rokewood.	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Continue annual inspections for pest plants and animals on Council owned or managed land	Inspections and works undertaken by Natural Resource Officer on Council reserves	Ongoing / Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Investigate the development of a Weed Hygiene Policy for Council contractors	All contractors working on Council reserves have undertaken accredited weed hygiene training through DELWP. Investigations into possible links with procurement policy and requirements with external contractor environment management plans continue.	Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Develop of a Weed Hygiene SOP for Council owned and operated plant and equipment	Council Environmental Roadside Management Plan, and Code of Practice developed that address this issue.	Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Review and renew the Council Weed info brochure	Weeds Brochure available on the website and considered up to date. Environmental information also promoted through the new residents booklet.	Complete
PEST PLANTS AND ANIMALS	Provide new residents with an Environment Services Information Guide	New Residents kit replaced with new residents booklet, information is supplied in booklet and referenced to website.	Complete
WATER	Promote 'only rain down the drain' education programs to reduce the volume of litter reaching storm water drains	Due to resource constraints Council (i.e. no sustainability officer) Council has not been able to pursue the "Rain down the drain" program at this time.	Ongoing / Incomplete
WATER	Advocate for the provision of recycled water from the Bannockburn Wastewater Treatment Plant for environmental, domestic, industrial, recreational and	Advocated for sustainable water adaption plans in recent Climate Resilient Communities Reference Group meetings.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
	agricultural use		
WATER	Promote the use of local indigenous plants as low water use plants by using these in Council gardens and streetscapes	Internal communications have occurred between Environment team and Works unit regarding native vegetation use along street planting. Environment Services Team also assisting in the development of Vegetation on Roadsides Policy. This is an ongoing action. In addition to the above, all landscape plans are also reviewed by the Environment team on new developments.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Investigate avenues to improve the energy and water sustainability of new and existing housing	All new buildings are designed with environmental factors being of high priority. Buildings are designed and constructed with water efficiency in mind. We are continuously developing our understanding and importance of environmental issues during the design stages of a project. Environmental and financial factors drive the end product. The Building code of Australia and minimal energy efficiency ratings also applies.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Install water tanks into any new or redeveloped Council Facilities for on-site use	New buildings constructed throughout the Shire are fitted with a minimum of one water tank to take run off from roof surfaces and to be used for amenities at a minimum. Water tanks are specified on all new buildings that are constructed. Water tank upgrades on existing structures are on our radar however due to insufficient funds works are on hold.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Encourage Water Sensitive Urban Design (stormwater traps, retention basins, drainage, litter traps) in all new developments as required	The infrastructure design manual incorporates sensitive design templates. Additionally the Environment Services Team advocates for water sensitive design use at relevant development meetings. Also to be implemented through planning permit applications as appropriate.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Advocate for the sustainable use of surface and groundwater resources	Advocate actions undertaken as appropriate. Information regarding sustainable water use held on Council website	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
WATER	Advocate for the development of sustainable town sewerage schemes	Smythesdale Sewerage Scheme completed.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Promote installation of septic systems capable of treating wastewater to a secondary standard suitable for domestic use	Environmental Health Officers actively promote appropriate systems. Wastewater Management Plan is reviewed annually.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Promote the responsible use of surface and groundwater resources	Council has implemented its Sustainable water use plan. However responsible ground water use is managed through Southern Rural Water (SRW). No new initiatives from SRW regarding this initiative have been implemented at this time	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Promote water saving initiatives through Council media	Water Saving initiatives published on the Golden Plains Shire website. Permanent water Saving initiatives are in place as part of State government advertising. Council also working on developing water resources guides for un-serviced areas as part of Climate Resilient Communities Project.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Install water efficient fittings and appliances when upgrading or building new Council facilities	New buildings are designed to incorporate environmentally friendly water services and fittings. Environmental and financial factors drive the end product.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Sow low water use grass species when restoring or developing recreational playing surfaces	Council is endeavouring to provide a couch surface to all major rec reserve playing surfaces. Santa Ana couch all though takes substantial water for initial growth requires minimal watering once established. Works have been completed at Haddon and Inverleigh with ongoing works at Bannockburn. Inverleigh Sports Complex and Haddon Rec Reserve ovals have had the implementation of Santa Ana Couch grass installed which is a low water usage grass type. These grasses have been installed in the financial year 2013/14. Council are looking to install Santa Ana at all our facilities over time.	Ongoing / Complete

AREA	ACTIVITY	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE	STATUS (COMPLETE / INCOMPLETE / ONGOING)
WATER	Seek funding to continue to develop alternative water sources to irrigate parks, ovals and public space	Ongoing. Dependant on available funding. Community Grants has also provide opportunities for funding. Water sustainability study undertaken for recreation reserves with works department currently considering implementation.	Ongoing / Complete
WATER	Investigate controls on small dams on small properties (e.g. lifestyle properties)	Southern Rural water has established controls under the State Governments Water plan	Complete