

# Sustainability Strategy

## 2022 – 2032





# Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians

The City of Perth acknowledges the Whadjuk Nyoongar people as the traditional owners of the lands and waters where Perth city is situated today and pay our respect to Elders past and present and emerging.

# Contents

Lord Mayor Message .....	4
CEO Message.....	4
Sustainability Commitment .....	6
The City's Role .....	8
Strategic Alignment .....	11
<b>Theme 1.</b> A Climate-Focussed City.....	12
<b>Theme 2.</b> A Green City.....	13
<b>Theme 3.</b> A Resource-Conscious City.....	14
<b>Theme 4.</b> A Well-Planned City .....	15
<b>Theme 5.</b> A Vibrant and Inclusive City.....	16
<b>Theme 6.</b> A Safe and Healthy City.....	17
<b>Theme 7.</b> A Prosperous City.....	18
<b>Theme 8.</b> A Well-Governed City.....	19



## Lord Mayor Message

### Basil Zempilas

I am immensely proud to be the Lord Mayor of our beautiful and unique city. We have a history that stretches long into the past and equally a future that is bright, exciting and full of promise.

Our Council has a vision for Perth city – for it to be liveable, sustainable and prosperous.

For our city to continue to grow and prosper, we must embrace and protect our precious environment and tread ever more softly within the world around us. We must strive to reach the potential of our incredible natural resources – including our land, our climate and our people. It is crucial to do this with partnerships across the government, non-government, and private sectors as well as with our amazing local community.

Through this Strategy, the City joins the rest of the world in committing to transition to a net zero city and to take advantage of all the opportunities that presents to us and our community.

**I invite you to come on this journey with us – into a sustainable future.**



## CEO Message

### Michelle Reynolds

Sustainability is no longer a buzzword or a concept – it has become something that businesses strive for, as a matter of course, to ensure the legacy of a healthy planet for generations to come. Whether it be planting trees to capture carbon in the atmosphere, changing street lighting to LED energy-efficient globes or educating the community on working towards net zero emissions, the City of Perth has identified sustainability as one of its three pillars – along with liveability and prosperity. Balancing social, economic and environmental outcomes – while demonstrating avoidance, efficiency and offsets – provides a pathway to sustainable decision making by a responsible local government organisation.

The City of Perth aims to use evidence-based, well researched measures to embed sustainability into all we do. This Strategy – the first for the City of Perth – is a focus document only but it is an early step in fostering our understanding of planning for, and ultimately becoming, a sustainable City.

**Substantial change will not happen overnight but by starting with small steps we can, eventually, progress to minimising our footprint.**









# Sustainability Commitment

## Our Organisation

We will embed sustainability in everything we do, understanding that without sustainability, our actions will impose a cost on future generations.

## Our City

We will be a city with flourishing social, environmental and economic systems, working in harmony to sustain a thriving and vibrant city for current and future generations.

## Our World

We will acknowledge our place in the globalised world, sharing in the challenges and opportunities that creating a sustainable world presents – looking outward to the world as the world looks in on us.





This Sustainability Strategy has therefore been prepared in consideration of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (below):

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



# The City's Role

The City will lead by example by understanding the impact of its own operations – setting targets and implementing measures to improve organisational performance over the areas under its direct control.

The City will also encourage and support the broader community to assist in **delivering** the City's sustainability objectives, thereby positively influencing the future of the city.

There are limits to what the City alone can control, so the objectives and initiatives of this Strategy recognise that the City will need to **advocate and partner** with others to achieve sustainability outcomes in areas the City does not directly control.

1

## Advocate

The City will give a voice to the needs and aspirations of the community by advocating for change on issues that are important to the community, outside the City's control.

2

## Partner

The City has shared responsibility or influence and will seek to build strategic partnerships with all levels of government, the private sector and a range of other stakeholders to deliver on sustainability objectives.

3

## Deliver

The City delivers a wide range of services and programs, operates facilities and assets and governs its own operations. The City will embed sustainability into everything it does.











# Strategic Alignment

The Sustainability Strategy builds on the three pillars of the City of Perth Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032, in particular the Sustainability Pillar – an aspiration for a healthy city where environmental, social and economic systems are in balance.



**Liveable**



**Sustainable**



**Prosperous**

Guided by the pillars, the Sustainability Strategy identifies eight themes. In their entirety, these themes harmonise the social, environmental and economic factors that create sustainability.

## A Climate-Focussed City

A climate-focussed and resilient city that is transitioning to a low emissions and renewable energy future



## A Green City

Preserve and restore the city's natural assets



## A Resource-Conscious City

Foster a culture of intelligent and considered resource use



## A Well-Planned City

A city of sustainable neighbourhoods and communities



## A Vibrant and Inclusive City

Represent and celebrate a diverse and engaged community



## A Safe and Healthy City

A safe, healthy and connected community



## A Prosperous City

A sustainable and inclusive economy



## A Well-Governed City

Maintain transparency throughout our sustainability journey



## A Climate-Focussed City

**Theme Objective: A climate focussed and resilient city that is transitioning to a low emissions and renewable energy future**

In a State particularly vulnerable to climate change, the City of Perth is focussed on climate action. We are taking steps to mitigate our contribution to greenhouse gas emissions whilst supporting our community to be informed, prepared and adapted for a different climate and a disrupted world.

The projected effects of climate change on our city include increasingly frequent and intense hot days, less rainfall in winter and spring, and more intense, heavy rainfall events. As the capital city of Western Australia, built on global industries and connected globally, we will be vigilant to local, regional and international trends and be agile in our response to the threats, challenges and opportunities that a changing climate presents to our health, lifestyles, economy and biodiversity.

Initiatives to achieve Theme Objective		City's Role		
		Advocate	Partner	Deliver
1.1	Work towards net zero emissions as an organisation through a planned approach to emissions avoidance, reduction and off-setting			●
1.2	Support the community to achieve net zero emissions	●	●	●
1.3	Identify opportunities to encourage and increase electric vehicle use within the organisation and the community	●	●	●
1.4	Identify and assess climate change risks into asset planning and maintenance, and in the development of new City assets			●
1.5	Incorporate climate change risk and resilience into City building/ facility upgrades and development of any new City assets			●
1.6	Identify and assess climate change risks for the community		●	●
1.7	Support the community to adapt and build resilience to climate change	●	●	●

### Informing plans and documents:

- Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Plans
- Property Review/Area Specific Strategy (under development)



# A Green City

## Theme Objective: Preserve and restore the city's natural assets

Perth sits within one of the world's 36 recognised global biodiversity hot spots – a biologically rich yet threatened region. Residents, visitors and workers in the city can regularly spot kwilana (Bottlenose Dolphins) in the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) or become lost in an amazing display of wildflowers in Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park).

The city's natural environment underpins our community's social, cultural and economic wellbeing but climate change and our competition for space pose a risk, even to the iconic marlee (Black Swan) on the City of Perth crest and the giant Moreton Bay Fig trees in our parks and gardens. The City is committed to conserving our natural assets, restoring those that have been damaged, creating new green spaces, and improving access to nature, ensuring our community benefits from our natural assets, now and forever.

Initiatives to achieve Theme Objective		City's Role		
		Advocate	Partner	Deliver
2.1	Develop and implement a framework to guide future decision-making on the design and use of existing open spaces in the city			●
2.2	Identify opportunities for new green open spaces through development or redevelopment of land held in private or public ownership	●	●	●
2.3	Assist in improving and maintaining the health of the city's waterways, water sources and surrounding ecosystems	●	●	
2.4	Enhance and regenerate the city's biodiversity and ecosystems	●	●	●
2.5	Increase the city's canopy cover through expansion of the City's Urban Forest program			●
2.6	Establish planning controls and incentives for the retention of significant trees on private property	●		●

### Informing plans and documents:

- Open Space Framework (under development)
- Urban Water Management Plan (Proposed)
- Local Planning Strategy (Draft endorsed)
- Local Planning Scheme No. 3 (under development)
- Neighbourhood Place Plans
- Urban Forest Plan

# A Resource-Conscious City

## Theme Objective: Foster a culture of intelligent and considered resource use

In our recent history, Perth's growth has been supported by the vast resources that we have within our State, resources we use to drive our local economy, and trade with global partners. We are committed to the considered and intelligent use of these resources.

We will understand when a resource is abundant and renewable, like our sunshine, and when it is scarce and finite, like our water. As a capital city, where resources are concentrated and innovation is rife, we will drive the principles of the circular economy to design out waste, transform supply chains and create new opportunities in the materials economy. Becoming a resource-conscious City means we will assist our community to thrive whilst staying within absolute planetary boundaries.

Initiatives to achieve Theme Objective		City's Role		
		Advocate	Partner	Deliver
3.1	Plan and implement a transition to renewable energy sources for City operations and assets			●
3.2	Implement initiatives to optimise resource use in City operations, assets and buildings	●		●
3.3	Prepare and implement an Urban Water Management Plan to transition to a water sensitive city			●
3.4	Maximise the reduction, reuse, and recovery of waste in City operations and assets			●
3.5	Support the community to implement waste minimisation, reuse, and recovery practices	●	●	●

### Informing plans and documents:

- Property Review /Area Specific Strategy (under development)
- Open Space Framework (under development)
- Urban Water Management Plan (proposed)
- Public Lighting Framework
- Asset Management Plans
- Waste Strategy

## A Well-Planned City

### Theme Objective: A city of sustainable neighbourhoods and communities

As the civic, economic and cultural heart of Western Australia, we plan in conjunction with the State Government – our crucial partner in the development of our capital city. The diversity of our community creates unique characteristics and attractions in our neighbourhoods, where we are responsible for planning for growth and the provision of infrastructure. Our approach to sustainability accounts for the uniqueness of each neighbourhood – their different needs and opportunities, as well as their threats and challenges, depending on whether you live near the river, dine out in Northbridge or work on St Georges Terrace.

Initiatives to achieve Theme Objective		City's Role		
		Advocate	Partner	Deliver
4.1	Incorporate Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) into the planning, design and maintenance of City-owned buildings and spaces			●
4.2	Establish planning controls and incentives to facilitate and encourage the inclusion of ESD in buildings and spaces on private properties	●		●
4.3	Identify opportunities to upgrade existing buildings to improve their environmental performance	●	●	
4.4	Plan and design an efficient, well-connected, and high amenity movement network to create walkable neighbourhoods	●	●	●
4.5	Enhance activity and safety in public spaces	●	●	●
4.6	Strengthen planning controls and develop incentives to increase the residential population of the city, and to increase housing diversity and affordability	●		●
4.7	Plan for adequate community and social infrastructure to support and meet the needs and aspirations of existing and future communities	●		●
4.8	Incorporate sustainability principles and outcomes into the City's neighbourhood place planning		●	●

### Informing plans and documents:

- Open Space Framework (under development)
- Local Planning Strategy (draft endorsed)
- Local Planning Scheme No. 3 (under development)
- Local Planning Policies (under development)
- Community Needs Analysis (proposed)
- Urban Forest Plan
- Public Lighting Framework
- Asset Management Plans
- Neighbourhood Place Plans
- Cycle Plan
- Safe City Plan



## A Vibrant and Inclusive City

### Theme Objective: Represent and celebrate a diverse and engaged community

The City of Perth is committed to understanding and providing for the needs of our residents, workers and visitors – all of whom we call our community. It is the kaleidoscope of culture, heritage, socio-economic standing, gender, age, race, and sexual orientation that adds richness and identity to our city. For some however, these differences create barriers to the full enjoyment of life instead of being the gift of experience from which we all can learn.

Sustainability is a truly global pursuit in which all people play a part. We are committed to being a vibrant and inclusive city that allows for the full participation of the community in determining the vision for their city. This includes ensuring a strong voice for the Traditional Owners of the land, the Whadjuk Nyoongar people, from whom we have much to learn about sustainability.

Initiatives to achieve Theme Objective		City's Role		
		Advocate	Partner	Deliver
5.1	Incorporate Whadjuk Nyoongar knowledge into the City's sustainability initiatives, programs, and practices		●	●
5.2	Increase opportunities for City activation and community engagement and enjoyment through a rich and diverse annual program of events	●	●	●
5.3	Embed sustainability and inclusivity principles and practices into the City's events program and into events sponsored by the City	●	●	●
5.4	Encourage greater participation and diversity of opinion in the democratic processes that govern the city	●		●
5.5	Engage with neighbourhood groups and other special interest and advisory groups on sustainability		●	●
5.6	Increase opportunities for whole of community access to lifelong learning and education through the City's library and promotion of other programs and events delivered by the City and the private sector	●	●	●

### Informing plans and documents:

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Events Strategy
- Cultural Development Plan
- Sponsorship guidelines
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Framework
- LGBTQIA+ Plan
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Neighbourhood Place Plans
- Heritage Strategy
- Workforce Plan
- Library Plan (proposed)
- Community Needs Analysis (proposed)



# A Safe and Healthy City

## Theme Objective: A safe, healthy and connected community

The safety, health and wellbeing of our community is at the heart of everything we do.

Being safe and healthy is about flourishing and having autonomy over life, both now and in the future. Our goal is for a city where everyone can have a fulfilling life on their own terms, not just free of any physical and mental ill-health, but full of confidence around safety and purposeful wellbeing.

As the capital city, and one of the first points of contact for interstate and overseas visitors to Western Australia, we need to ensure we are welcoming and safe for all. Everyone should feel safe in the city, both day and night, and enjoy the vibrant community life Perth has to offer.

We understand that a city's success is dependent on the wellbeing of its community. We are committed to creating a happy, healthy and connected Perth community through robust public health planning, ensuring accessible and inclusive environments and building safe and resilient communities that are adapting to the public health impacts of climate change.

### Initiatives to achieve Theme Objective

### City's Role

	Advocate	Partner	Deliver
<b>6.1</b> Protect, improve, and promote public health and wellbeing	●	●	●
<b>6.2</b> Prioritise the safety and security of all who live, work, and visit the city	●	●	●
<b>6.3</b> Support the transition towards reducing homelessness in the community	●	●	●
<b>6.4</b> Prioritise the health, wellbeing, and safety of all City of Perth employees through holistic workplace programs			●
<b>6.5</b> Identify opportunities for improving local air quality within the transport networks		●	

### Informing plans and documents:

- Social Health and Wellbeing Plan (under development)
- Safe City Plan
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
- Workforce Plan
- Cycle Plan
- Transport Position Paper (under development)
- Rough Sleeper Plan

## A Prosperous City

### Theme Objective: A sustainable and inclusive economy

Western Australia is synonymous with prosperity. From a rich, biodiverse landscape that supported the Whadjuk Nyoongar people around Perth for more than 47,000 years, to the vast mineral riches that play a key role in our country's relative affluence, it is difficult to imagine that early European explorers sailed past the south-west coast for centuries without settling, because it seemingly offered nothing.

In the 21st century, we commit to building prosperity in such a way that benefits all people and is restorative for the planet. In being a prosperous city, we will seek the chance for all to thrive, particularly with those that have lived with little. We seek prosperity for our community, as our community defines it for themselves - whether that is a job mining the minerals for the next renewable energy boom, or simply being able to afford the time for a leisurely picnic in Kaarta Gar-up (Kings Park).

#### Initiatives to achieve Theme Objective

#### City's Role

Advocate Partner Deliver

7.1	Embed sustainability principles and practices in the City's procurement processes and supply chains			
7.2	Plan for a sustainable economic future while responding to the challenges of today			
7.3	Support city businesses to embed sustainability principles in their business practices			

#### Informing plans and documents:

- Evolution to Excellence
- Economic Development Strategy
- Events Strategy
- Sponsorship guidelines



# A Well-Governed City

## Theme Objective: Maintain transparency throughout our sustainability journey

Good governance is at the centre of our strategy. For our community to be on the journey with us, we must use methodical planning, a strong evidence base, have integrity in our data, and be transparent in our actions through public reporting.

Initiatives to achieve Theme Objective		City's Role		
		Advocate	Partner	Deliver
8.1	Build the City's knowledge and skills to embed sustainability into organisational practices			●
8.2	Develop plans to execute the Strategy, including responsibilities, resources, and timelines			●
8.3	Review governance mechanisms to embed sustainability into the City's planning and decision-making systems and processes			●
8.4	Report on achievement and progress against performance measures and targets in the implementation plan for this Strategy			●
8.5	Review the Strategy in 2025 and review plans annually to ensure they remain reflective of the City and community's sustainability aspirations			●

### Informing plans and documents:

- Governance Framework
- Sustainability Implementation Plan (proposed)
- Evolution to Excellence
- Strategic Community Plan
- Corporate Business Plan
- ICT Strategy



This publication is available in alternative formats and languages upon request.



GPO Box C120,  
Perth WA 6839



[perth.wa.gov.au](http://perth.wa.gov.au)



27 St Georges Terrace  
Perth WA 6000

**T** 08 9461 3333

**E** [info@cityofperth.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@cityofperth.wa.gov.au)

**CITY OF**  **PERTH**