





MASTER ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Environment – Water, Land and Biodiversity

Yarriambiack Shire Council is currently preparing its Master Environment Strategy. The Strategy will set a clear direction that we will use to guide our planning and decision-making to meet community expectations regarding environmental sustainability for the next 10 years. We are seeking your input on a range of matters, including climate action – adaptation, mitigation and renewable energy, to guide the development of this Strategy.

Yarriambiack Shire has a unique natural environment with prominent features such as the Yarriambiack Creek. The region is primarily agricultural land with interspersed fragments of vegetation. These fragments, alongside the waterways and wetlands within the Shire, are valuable natural assets.

<p>Weeds</p> 	<p>Weeds threaten the Shire’s natural values, and landowners are noticing an increasing prevalence of new weeds. Council carries out roadside weed management, and works with landowners, Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and government agencies to ensure weeds on private land are controlled in the Shire.</p>
<p>Biodiversity</p> 	<p>In the Shire, remnant native vegetation has not been well preserved. This causes salinity issues and reduces wildlife corridors. Native vegetation is being further impacted by climate variability. Native vegetation clearance has slowed significantly but still occurs. Council works with Landcare to improve conservation outcomes. Activities for land restoration have typically been led by Landcare networks but these have been scaled back in recent years due to challenges such as maintaining a sufficient volunteer base.</p>
<p>Recreation</p> 	<p>The natural environment creates many opportunities for recreational value and community connection to nature. High value recreational water supply access is important to the community and tourism, but this is vulnerable in variable climate conditions. Public open spaces are also important to residents in Yarriambiack and are attractive destinations for visitors to the Shire, particularly along the Yarriambiack Creek. Council manages some of this land, and other land is managed by the state government.</p>
<p>Cultural Values</p> 	<p>Yarriambiack Shire Council is committed to building stronger relationships with the local Traditional Owners and Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC). The BGLC has a Reconciliation and Settlement Agreement with the state government which includes a local government engagement strategy. Council works closely with BGLC across a range of projects that the Council undertakes.</p>
<p>Sustainable Urban and Rural Design</p>	<p>As the climate warms, shaded areas in Council’s towns become increasingly important for the comfort and safety of the Shire’s residents and visitors. Trees in the Shire’s urban spaces make an important contribution to the attractiveness of towns in the Shire, as well as providing welcome cooling and shading in the heat. To date, there has not been a clear strategic direction for planting and managing urban trees.</p>

Actions

- Collaborate with landowners and CMAs to manage pests.
- Enhance protection of biodiversity and areas of natural value.
- Work with BGLC to preserve and protect Traditional Owner heritage values and culture.
- Create more opportunities for the community to connect with the natural environment.
- Plant and manage urban trees to enhance shaded areas and biodiversity.

Goal

Protect and enhance the natural environment including habitats, water resources and associated cultural values, by minimising environmental impacts and supporting healthy ecosystems.




Complete the survey online by scanning the QR Code