

2.4 Local Biodiversity Policy

The Town of Bassendean values biodiversity and recognises the importance of protecting natural areas. There are significant threats to biodiversity from development pressures, inappropriate management and from climate change.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the variety of all life forms of endemic plants, native insects, native animals, micro-organisms, their genes and the ecosystem processes of which they are a part, are protected.

Objectives

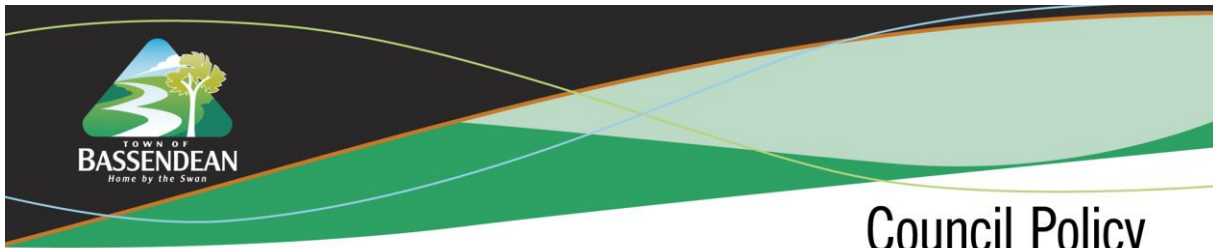
The Town of Bassendean's Local Biodiversity Policy objectives are:

- To secure the protection and conservation of bushland areas, in particular biodiversity corridors (or ecological linkages);
- To promote the retention, conservation, protection, effective management and restoration of all remnant vegetation;
- To ensure that biodiversity conservation and management issues are appropriately addressed and integrated in all Council's activities including strategic land use planning and decision making;
- To ensure that development and land use are compatible with biodiversity protection and/or provide for an improved environmental outcome and incorporate best practice planning, design and management outcomes.

Strategy

The Town of Bassendean strives to achieve these objectives by:

- Developing a partnership with adjacent Councils to develop and implement a local biodiversity strategy for the Town;
- Protecting and regenerating bushland remnants, restoring local reserves, and either creating or consolidating ecological linkages and buffer zones;
- Ensuring that a comprehensive ecological assessment is undertaken in development proposals and activities;
- Applying an equivalent or higher standard of environmental assessment to planning and carrying out its own works;
- Exploring options for incentives to property owners and developers to conserve biodiversity on private land;



Council Policy

- Only approving development proposals or other activities within its control with likely impacts to biodiversity if the Town is satisfied there are measures in place to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts.
- Reporting implementation of these measures for the life of the development;
- Improving and enhancing management of natural areas existing reserves ensuring local and regional linkages;
- Landscaping to increase and enhance local biodiversity;
- Monitoring and evaluation of natural areas.

Detail

- Council adopted Local Planning Policy No. 18 – Landscaping with Local Plants applies to all subdivisions, land development and redevelopments proposals
- This policy applies to all bushland and foreshore areas within the Town of Bassendean;

Application

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy rests with all Councillors, staff, volunteers and contractors of the Town of Bassendean. This policy is to be measured and reported upon in the quarterly and annual report. This policy is to be reviewed every three years.

<p>Policy Type: Strategic Policy</p> <p>Link to Strategic Community Plan: Environmental sustainability and adaption to climate change</p>	<p>Responsible Officer: Director Operational Services</p> <p>First Adopted: June 2011</p> <p>Last Reviewed: March 2014</p> <p>Version</p> <p>Next Review due by: December 2016</p>
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