

# LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY

A SERIES OF LOCAL CASES



## City of Joondalup, Australia

### Public Participation to preserve biological heritage

**SUMMARY:** The urbanisation of the City of Joondalup is relatively recent, with intense urban development only occurring in the last 30 years. The City of Joondalup is committed to preserving its huge natural heritage and is doing so through extensive public participation and education initiatives. Joondalup's Public Participation Policy and Strategy together with its biodiversity initiatives have led to successful biodiversity projects including Adopt a Coastline, Water Wise Gardens and the Green Frog Stencilling Project.

### Biodiversity & biodiversity management in Joondalup

#### Joondalup's Public Participation Policy

The City of Joondalup's Strategic Plan outlines specific commitments to public participation, including: the objective to engage proactively with the community and key strategies to implement and refine its Public Participation Policy and to maintain its commitment to public engagement by allowing deputations and public statement times in addition to the legislative requirements for public participation. The city's performance indicators show that the community has registered ongoing levels of satisfaction (69 – 78%) in relation to public participation and with regards to performance on conservation and environmental management (81 – 88%).



City of Joondalup school children undertaking coastal plantings as part of the Adopt-A-Coastline project

#### The Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Joondalup Council has two advisory committees that report directly to it on environmental and biodiversity issues: the Sustainability Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC makes recommendations, provides strategic input and enables partnerships for the conservation of the City of Joondalup's natural biodiversity. It has assisted the city in implementing a range of

initiatives including: management plans for the native vegetation growing adjacent to the coastline, and for reserves containing native vegetation. The CAC will also be directly involved with the development of Joondalup's Biodiversity Plan. The CAC comprises ten community members with specialised knowledge in local environmental issues and appointed by the Council after public advertising.

#### Biodiversity Awareness Raising and Education Projects

Joondalup has several programs to raise public awareness of biodiversity and environmental sustainability. One example is the Water Wise Garden that aims to be an attractive model garden for the use and benefit of drought tolerant plants. Since 2000, the city has coordinated a variety of interactive environmental shows and displays for local schools as part of its commitment to World Environment Day. The City of Joondalup and various partners are developing plans to build an environment centre within the Yellagonga Regional Park that will provide education, interpretation, visitor, cultural and community services in the context of environmental sustainability.

## Adopt a Coastline

The Adopt a Coastline program is one of Joondalup's most successful, long-running biodiversity awareness programmes. The programme teaches students about the biodiversity of Joondalup's coastline, through involvement in projects to restore and protect damaged dune vegetation. Pupils are involved in hands-on conservation through the planting of indigenous species. Each project lasts for six weeks and includes six full days of practical experience working on the coast. The program

is extremely popular and is over-subscribed every year.



Green frogs stencilled onto local sidewalks as part of the Green Frog Stencilling project.

### Green Frog Stencilling Project

In partnership with a community group, this project involves high school students stencilling a green frog onto curbs at drainage points where storm-water drains into the Yellagonga Regional Park: a reminder to the community not allow pollution down the drain because it will end up in the Yellagonga wetlands and cause harm to the environment.

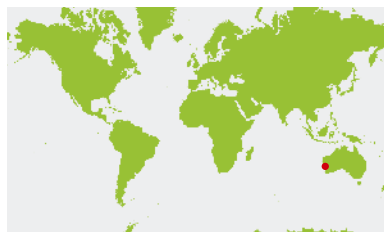
For more info on this project, contact:

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## Involvement in international initiatives

Joondalup is a member of ICLEI and is a participant in the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Programme. The City of Joondalup has a sister city relationship with Jinan in the Shandong Province of China. In 2006, the two cities adopted a Strategic Relationship Plan. One of the focus areas of the plan is environmental exchange, through the sharing of information and ideas related to natural conservation. In July 2006, Joondalup sent a delegation of students to Jinan to attend the International Children's Festival, which brought together children and youth from around the world to celebrate the natural environment shared by all.

## City contacts & profile



A city within a global biodiversity hotspot which initiated innovative ways to manage its natural assets.

**THE CITY OF JOONDALUP** is part of the Perth metropolitan area of Western Australia. The City extends over an area of 95.5 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of 160,000 citizens. Joondalup's boundaries include Yellagonga Regional Park and its major wetlands, the natural bushland areas of the east of the suburbs, and just over 17 km of pristine coastline and coastal reserve, including Western Australia's first marine park, Marmion Marine Park. The City is situated within the Southwestern Australia International Biodiversity Hotspot zone.

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**LOCAL ACTION FOR BIODIVERSITY** is a global urban biodiversity initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability in cooperation with IUCN. This pilot project of 21 cities around the globe focuses on the key roles that local governments play in conserving the world's biodiversity and retaining the relationship between people and nature. See: [www.iclei.org/lab](http://www.iclei.org/lab); [lab@iclei.org](mailto:lab@iclei.org)

**COUNTDOWN 2010** is a powerful network of more than 600 partners working together towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Each partner commits additional efforts to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss. The secretariat – hosted by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – facilitates and encourages action, promotes the importance of the 2010 biodiversity target and assesses progress towards 2010. See: [www.countdown2010.org](http://www.countdown2010.org)

**CITIES & BIODIVERSITY** is an initiative of local governments and UN agencies to increase awareness on the relevant role of cities and towns for conserving and managing biodiversity. See: [www.iclei.org/biodiversity](http://www.iclei.org/biodiversity)

**THE "CITIES & BIODIVERSITY CASE SERIES"** is started in 2008 on the occasion of the UN CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) 9 in Bonn/Germany in May 2008. Funding is provided by UNEP, with co-funding from ICLEI, IUCN and the City of Bonn. The case descriptions are compiled by the "Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB)" project team in the ICLEI Africa Secretariat and ICLEI's International Training Centre.

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