



Strategic Plan

2019/20-2023/24

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VISION

AGLG are committed to the vision of our community living and working in harmony with the environment of the upper Canning and Southern-Wungong catchments.

MISSION

To lead, strengthen and promote ways of addressing degradation of urban catchments and their associated waterways.

HOW WE WORK

The AGLG are an independent, incorporated local catchment group. The AGLG operates within the Cities of Armadale and Gosnells, the boundaries of which closely align to the Upper Canning, Southern and Wungong River catchments.

The focus of the AGLG to date has been the coordination and implementation of awareness-raising and on-ground action projects, with a focus on river and bushland management.

The AGLG also gives the local community the opportunity to advocate and lobby for environmental issues in the region. Previously, the AGLG has provided impetus for the development of new projects and improved environmental management outcomes.

Membership of the AGLG includes elected representatives from the Cities of Armadale and Gosnells, as well as representatives from local community groups, Friends groups and private landholders. Staff from both Partner Local Governments provide briefings and technical assistance to the group. The AGLG currently meets 5 times each year (mostly bi-monthly) to:

- discuss actions and activities of the group;
- discuss activities of Friends groups relevant to the AGLG, and vice versa;
- organise guest speakers of interesting/controversial topics;
- receive briefings from Local Government officers on relevant issues;
- organise planting days with Friends groups
- discuss and develop actions relating to relevant environmental issues within catchment; including but limited to,
 - bushland destruction
 - pumping of water from rivers
 - pollution
 - vandalism
 - verge mowing and tree lopping

Strategic and staff management of the group is overseen by the AGLG Employment Management Committee which includes two of the AGLG Executive members (e.g. the Chair and Deputy Chair) and local government representatives, currently the Manager Environmental Services, City of Armadale and the Coordinator Environmental Management, City of Gosnells. This Committee also meets bi-monthly.

The Cities of Armadale and Gosnells provide substantial funding to the AGLG and acknowledge the importance of the organisation and their activities. The two Cities also provide substantial in-kind support to the AGLG, including housing and resourcing staff in their offices.

VALUES

The AGLG works collaboratively, focussing on building strong, productive and mutually beneficial partnerships; and believes the best results arise from effective cooperation with governments, businesses, non-for-profit organisations and individuals.

We strive to demonstrate integrity in all we do, and are committed to being inclusive, collaborative, innovative and effective.

FOCUS AREAS

In the pursuit of its vision, AGLG has identified the following four Focus Areas as key priorities for its objectives moving forward.

Focus Area One: Community

Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

Focus Area Three: Valued Partnerships

Focus Area Four: Leadership

Focus Area One:	Community
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Strategic Goal One: Continually improve awareness, participation and capacity building in natural resource management.

Objective 1a: Facilitate local community awareness and participation in natural resource management.

Actions

- Increase community awareness of local environmental threats and issues through activities such as informative stalls at community events, newsletters, brochures, social media stories, and a website.
 - Issues include habitat importance, declining water quality, environmental weeds and their impact, the use of local native plants in gardens.
- Assist in communicating desirable environmental outcomes to the community (as prescribed by State and Local Government as well as industry best-practice) through the above channels.
- In conjunction with relevant program service providers, arrange relevant environmental themed workshops within the City of Armadale and Gosnells using local information and education tools.

Objective 1b: Support local environmental community groups and volunteers to deliver positive environmental outcomes.

Actions

- Maintain a local community group network for support and information sharing purposes.
- Build capacity of local community groups to a level for effective on-ground activity through training and other skill development.
- Provide support to volunteers and Friends groups through identifying or sponsoring grant funding, resulting in physical resources for on-ground works.
- Provide advice on natural resource management techniques.
- Facilitate partnerships for on ground works between environmental community groups and land managers, particularly Local Government.

Strategic Goal Two: Natural resource management goals are integrated with community activity.

Objective 2a: Deliver events and activities which bring a wide range of community members together.

Actions

- Encourage and support indigenous communities to be involved in river restoration and revegetation activities.

- Offer corporate events to connect businesses with the environment and issues that are important to the local community.
- Offer inclusive weekend community landcare events, where all community members are recognised, valued and supported.

Objective 2b: **Facilitate educational and participatory opportunities for school groups in natural resource management.**

Actions

- Maintain and aim to increase our school network.
- Promote awareness and engagement in natural resource management to schools both inside and outside of the catchment.
- Offer and schedule weekday bookings for primary and secondary school students to participate in landcare activities at age and skill appropriate levels.

Focus Area Two:	Natural Environment
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Strategic Goal One: **To protect, enhance and restore habitats in our rivers, wetlands and our bushland.**

Objective 1a: **Undertake best practice restoration on priority natural areas.**

Actions

- Develop and implement annual programs for river restoration and revegetation activities at priority sites.
- Work closely with State environmental authorities and keep abreast of current technical recommendations for watercourses, wetland and bushland management.
- Ensure project sites address fire, disease management, and climate change issues.

Objective 1b: **Plan environmental restoration projects to assist the implementation of Local Government management plans and State environmental priorities.**

Actions

- Identify priority sites in conjunction with Partner Local Governments and determine key threatening processes and management response actions required to maintain or enhance biodiversity values at these sites.

Objective 1c: **Advocate when biodiversity is identified as under threat.**

Actions

- Receive community concerns relating to environmental threats and subsequently communicate and advocate causes to Local Government and other relevant organisations.

Strategic Goal Two: **To improve ecological linkages across our catchments.**

Objective 2: **Strategically plan new restoration projects with a focus on ecological value.**

Actions

- Consider remnant vegetation, vegetation condition and proximity to existing natural areas or existing restoration sites when conducting future planning.
- Consider on-going maintenance of restoration sites, land tenure or land manager resources when planning restoration sites.

Strategic Goal Three: **To assist in protecting and enhancing the quality of ground water and surface water in our river systems and wetlands.**

Objective 3: **Undertake foreshore and riparian restoration to mitigate water quality threats.**

Actions

- Plant additional native vegetation in riparian and catchment areas and to uptake organic nutrients, sequester carbon and pollutants, and form a physical barrier to rubbish.
- Plant additional native vegetation in riparian areas to increase root biomass to assist in bank stabilisation and erosion mitigation.
- Conduct activities such as rubbish collection and disposal, weed control and site monitoring (for sedimentation, pollution, algal blooms etc.) to identify threats to waterways.
- Conduct educational programs to increase community awareness of potential impacts due to declining water quality. Communicate processes and pathways of nutrient and other contaminants (e.g. drain stencilling program – storm water quality education).

Focus Area Three: ***Valued Partnerships***

Strategic Goal One: **Well-developed relationships with government, educational institutions, industry, not-for-profits and community.**

Objective a: **Nurturing existing relationships and developing new collaborative partnerships.**

Actions

- Maintain existing relationships and facilitate cross-synergistic projects to improve on-ground environmental outcomes.
- Use our network to seek new organisations and associations to assist in delivering positive environmental outcomes.

Objective b: **Recognised by stakeholders as a trusted contact for natural resource management (NRM) issues and restoration.**

Actions

- Continue our long-standing record of high-quality restoration work.
- Continue to be a conduit for community on local environmental issues.

Objective c: **Foster stewardship and long term caretaking of restoration sites within the community.**

Actions

- Facilitate the community to provide ongoing care, maintenance, supervision and advocacy for natural areas.
- Promote the formation of Friends groups by providing advice and seeking grant funding.
- Identify, support and celebrate local champions who lead group development initiatives that apply sustainable management practices.

Focus Area Four:	Leadership
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Strategic Goal One: **Be a well-respected and well run NGO.**

Objective 1a: **Recruit and support skilled staff.**

Actions

- Recruit AGLG staff who have skills and expertise to provide technical natural resource management advice to volunteers and stakeholders.
- Seek opportunities for professional development of AGLG staff.

Objective 1b: **Make sound, strategic decisions.**

Actions

- Work with partners to have current and relevant information at hand.

Strategic Goal Two: **Leadership and promotion of the urban landcare space.**

Objective 2a: **Act as ambassadors for urban landcare undertaken in the City of Gosnells and Armadale throughout the Perth region.**

Actions

- The AGLG committee to advocate, lead and work with staff to raise landcare issues and promote landcare action.
- Through print media, an online presence and by networking at political and industry events seeks to raise the profile of urban landcare and increase the awareness of, and funding to, ecological restoration projects in the CoG and CoA.

Objective 2b: **Tell positive stories of NRM achievements within the Armadale and Gosnells Local Government areas.**

Actions

- Through print media, an online presence, media releases and by networking, tell positive stories of NRM achievements within the Armadale and Gosnells Local Government areas.