

Local Government Biodiversity Conservation Capacity Survey 2007

Perth Biodiversity Project (PBP) Overview

The PBP is a major Local Government initiative to promote the long-term protection and management of natural areas in the Perth Metropolitan Region (PMR) and the Shire of Chittering. Through the project, both technical and financial support is being provided to 30 participating Councils. The project is largely funded through the Swan Catchment Council and is hosted by the WA Local Government Association (WALGA). Participating Local Governments have contributed financially to the cost of hosting the PBP at WALGA and have committed in-kind support to match funding and technical support provided through the project.

Local Governments may benefit from the PBP by:

- Improving the quality of life and amenity of the local environment
- Accessing additional funding and technical expertise for protecting and managing local natural areas
- Obtaining mapping (including GIS biodiversity datasets), information and statistics
- Access, training and technical support for the use of the Natural Area Initial Assessment Templates
- Support to develop Local Biodiversity Strategies using the Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines
- Local Biodiversity Strategy Milestone programme to provide political and public recognition to those Councils preparing and implementing Local Biodiversity Strategies
- Strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new ones with State Government, non-government organisations, community groups and other Local Governments
- Greater understanding of the biodiversity in your municipality, and the actions that can be undertaken to minimise impacts on biodiversity and enhance the protection of native vegetation
- Opportunities to publicise Council conservation initiatives and demonstrate a commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development
- Advice and feedback on Targeted Grants projects and recommendations for project implementation
- Providing additional support to your local community in relation to their conservation initiatives

Survey Aims

The PBP undertakes surveys to assess the biodiversity conservation capacity of Local Governments for the following reasons:

- ❖ To generate information suitable for developing priorities to enhance the capacity of each participating Local Government to protect and manage its local natural areas. (This also enables the PBP to tailor its services to the requirements of each Local Government.)
- ❖ To provide data and information so that a comparison can be made with the baseline capacity survey undertaken in 2002.
- ❖ To increase awareness and involvement of Local Government in the PBP.

Survey Process

The questionnaire will be sent to the Environmental Officers (EO) of each Local Government (for those councils that don't have an EO, the person who deals most directly with environmental issues will be contacted), and a copy forwarded to the CEO of each Local Government. A PBP Officer will then arrange a time to meet with each EO (or equivalent) for the survey to be conducted face to face. The EO will need to liaise with the relevant officers within their local government to collect any information required to answer the questions and where appropriate organise for the relevant officers to meet with PBP staff on the interview day.

Survey Outcome

This survey will enable the PBP to better assist Local Governments in developing Local Biodiversity Strategies, by providing a clearer picture of what stage of the biodiversity planning process Local Governments are up to, what they need to progress, and how the PBP can best target resources to help them. It will allow the PBP to tailor services to each Local Government and introduce relevant options to increase capacity and improve biodiversity outcomes.

PBP Survey Glossary

Biodiversity: The variety of all life forms – the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part. Biodiversity is not static, but constantly changing; it is increased by genetic change and evolutionary processes and reduced by processes such as habitat degradation, population decline and extinction (Commonwealth of Australia 1996). Biodiversity has two key aspects: its intrinsic value at the genetic level, individual species level, and species assemblages levels; and its functional value at the ecosystem processes level.

Bush Forever: A 10-year strategic plan to protect some 51,200 ha of regionally significant bushland in 287 Bush Forever Sites, representing, where achievable, a target of protecting at least 10% of each of the original 26 vegetation complexes on the Swan Coastal Plain portion of the Perth Metropolitan Region.

Ecological linkages: Non-contiguous natural areas that connect larger natural areas by forming stepping stones that allow the movement over time of organisms between these larger areas.

Local Natural Areas (LNAs): Natural areas that exist outside of Bush Forever Sites (Swan Coastal Plain), the CALM Managed Estate and Regional Parks. In the past these areas have been referred to as local biodiversity areas. (See also *natural areas*)

Local biodiversity strategy: Strategic plan for improving biodiversity conservation at a local government level (as outlined in the *Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines*).

Local provenance: 'Local provenance' refers to seed collected from natural populations growing in the same vegetation community and position in the landscape within a reasonable (closest possible) distance of the area being restored. Provenance is used to describe patterns of genetic variation exhibited by a species over its geographic range. Characteristics of the plants being collected from, or the area in which they are located should sufficiently match those of the planting location or its local vegetation. (Mortlock 1999)

Management agreement: A contractual arrangement between two parties (e.g. local government and landholder), to provide for the conservation and management of native vegetation on the land to which the agreement relates. This often involves a payment for service (e.g. works that contribute to the maintenance of biodiversity).

Native vegetation: Indigenous aquatic or terrestrial vegetation. It does not include vegetation that was intentionally sown, planted or propagated unless that vegetation was sown, planted or propagated as required under the Environmental Protection Act (1986) or another written law; or that vegetation is of a class declared by regulation to be included in this definition. Native vegetation does not include dead vegetation unless that dead vegetation is of a class declared by regulation to be included in this definition. Native vegetation does include non-vascular plants (for example, mosses, fungi, algae) and marine plants (seagrass, macro algae [seaweed]). Native vegetation is more than trees and includes understorey and groundcover plants.

Natural area: An area that contains native species or communities in a relatively natural state and hence contains biodiversity. Natural areas can be areas of native vegetation, vegetated or open water bodies (lakes, swamps), or waterways (estuaries, rivers, streams, creeks – often referred to as channel wetlands), springs, rock outcrops, bare ground (generally sand or mud), caves, coastal dunes or cliffs.

On-ground works: Any activity that contributes to the reduction or removal of any threatening process affecting local natural areas, or repairs damage caused by threatening processes.

Threatened: A species that is likely to become extinct or which is rare, and declared so, under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (Section 23F for threatened flora, Section 14(2)(ba) for threatened fauna).

Threatening processes: Any occurrence, activity or institutional process or structure that threatens, or may threaten, the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of a native species or ecological community (ANZECC 2000a). Threatening processes include environmental weeds, clearing of native vegetation, and the size and distribution of the human population, processes that impact on the integrity of biological diversity (reduce biodiversity values) are any occurrence, activity or institutional process/structure, such as environmental weeds, clearing of native vegetation, or the size and distribution of the human population.

Local Government:

Date:

Interviewer:

Officer 1 Name:	_____	Please advise if Officer 1 would like to receive...	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity News
Initials:	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> NAMN E-news
Position:	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> WALGA Eco-News
Contact Number:	_____		(see below for details)
Email:	_____		

Officer 2 Name:	_____	Please advise if Officer 2 would like to receive...	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity News
Initials:	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> NAMN E-news
Position:	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> WALGA Eco-News
Contact Number:	_____		(see below for details)
Email:	_____		

Officer 3 Name:	_____	Please advise if Officer 3 would like to receive...	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity News
Initials:	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> NAMN E-news
Position:	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> WALGA Eco-News
Contact Number:	_____		(see below for details)
Email:	_____		

Officer 4 Name:	_____	Please advise if Officer 4 would like to receive...	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity News
Initials:	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> NAMN E-news
Position:	_____		<input type="checkbox"/> WALGA Eco-News
Contact Number:	_____		(see below for details)
Email:	_____		

When completing the survey, please include the respondent's initials for each question.

Newsletters available to Officers:

Biodiversity News is a quarterly electronic newsletter providing updates on PBP and SWBP activities.

NAMN E-news is a fortnightly electronic newsletter which links members of the Natural Area Managers Network (NAMN). It provides relevant information to people with an interest in natural area management.

WALGA Eco-News is a monthly electronic newsletter that provides information on Local Government environmental initiatives, Natural Resource Management, sustainability issues, Environmental Policy issues and more.

Part A – Resourcing

The purpose of this section is to explore the level of resources committed by Local Government to biodiversity conservation.

1. Does your Council employ a Bushcare Officer (BO) and/or Environmental Officer (EO) (other than an Environmental Health Officer)?

Respondent:

EO Yes No

If Yes, which area do they formally report to?

Planning

Engineering

Parks

Environmental Health

Strategic planning

Other (please specify): _____.

BO Yes No

If Yes, which area do they formally report to?

Planning

Engineering

Parks

Environmental Health

Strategic planning

Other (please specify): _____.

If No, are there any persons (please specify) within your Local Government with specific responsibilities for environmental resource issues?

2. If Yes to Question 1, please indicate the major activities/focus of the Environmental/Bushcare Officer?

Respondent:

Activity	Percentage of Time (%)	
	Environmental Officer	Bushcare Officer
State of Environment Reporting		
Preparing Grant Applications		
Reserve Management		
Subdivision and Development advice		
Strategic Planning		
Community liaison and coordination		
Other		
TOTAL	100%	100%

3. How many Full (or part) Time Equivalent (FTE's) are dedicated to on-ground bush regeneration? (i.e. 0.2, 0.5, 1, 2.5 etc).

Respondent:

___ FTE's

4. Who has major responsibility for the decision-making relevant to the protection and management of local natural areas? (Please rank from 1 to 7 according to who has greatest influence, 1 being greatest to 7 being least)

Respondent:

(1-7)

- Council Planning staff
- Council Engineering staff
- Council Parks and Gardens Staff
- Council Environmental Officer
- Council Senior Management
- Councillors
- Other (please specify) _____

5. How does your Local Government generally access appropriately skilled people for conducting surveys, research and/or mapping of threatened species, wetlands, native vegetation, weed invasion, coastal ecosystems etc?

Respondent:

Provider	% of activities mentioned above undertaken by provider
Local Government staff	
Consultant	
State Agency staff	
Non-government Organisation	
Landcare / Catchment Support Officer	
Community members	
Other (please specify):	

6. Does your Local Government have a community nursery?

Respondent:

Yes No

If Yes, please describe how it operates

7. Do you engage specialist weed control contractors?

Respondent:

Yes No

If Yes, who are the contractors? _____

Do they have experience in identifying native plant species and are familiar with weed control techniques in native bushland areas?

Yes No

8. Did your Local Government have any expenses in 2005-2006 relating to the conservation of biodiversity and habitat?

Respondent:

Including:

*Salaries and Contractors
Operating and Capital*

- Measures to protect native plants, animals and habitats (e.g. creation and maintenance of nature conservation areas, administration of tree protection regulations, new plantings to create 'green corridors')
- Measures to protect or restore ecosystems (e.g. wetlands, riparian, estuarine and dune systems, area of remnant vegetation)
- Measures to control non-native feral animals (e.g. foxes and rabbits)
- Measures to control noxious weeds or environmental weeds
- Fire control activities
- Distributed or attributed administrative expenses related to any of the above

Excluding:

- Maintenance of public parks and gardens, street trees, nature strips, etc. to provide recreational or visual amenity (include in Part 3: Resource Management)
- Measures to control stray domestic animals in urban areas
- Fire protection activities for urban and rural developed land
- Depreciation

Yes

No

If Yes, please tick and specify:

Expenditure	\$	Specifications/Comments
Salaries		
Contractors		
Operating		
Capital		
Other (please specify)		
TOTAL		

9. What proportion (%) of your Local Government's total operating budget is spent on biodiversity conservation?

Respondent:

___ %

Of that proportion of Council's operating budget spent on biodiversity conservation, what proportion is allocated to:

Bushland conservation and management _____ %

Coastal conservation and management _____ %

River foreshore conservation and management _____ %

10. Did your Local Government receive any revenue/income related to Biodiversity and Habitat Conservation in 2005-2006?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, please tick and specify:

Revenue	\$	Specifications/Comments
Rates		
Levies		
Fines		
Licences		
Grants		
Other (please specify)		
TOTAL		

11. Would your Local Government be prepared to invest in regional biodiversity initiatives that include areas outside of your Local Government area?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, what would be the reasons for this? (please tick all relevant responses)

- Formation of ecological linkages
- You have very little or no bush/wetlands in your local government area and want to demonstrate a commitment to biodiversity conservation
- You have very little or no bush/wetlands and want to ensure that residents have continued access to biodiversity areas in nearby local governments to provide opportunities for recreational, educational and spiritual fulfilment
- You want to support community groups working adjacent to your local government boundary
- Other (please specify)

Part B – Education, Awareness and Training

The purpose of this section is to determine the level of skill and knowledge that Local Government has in relation to activities and responsibilities associated with the conservation and management of biodiversity.

12. Do you provide/fund biodiversity conservation related training opportunities for Local Government staff?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, what are these opportunities and who undertakes the training? (Please tick)

	Environment Officer	Parks & Gardens	Works crews	Planning Staff	Senior Management	Councillor	Community	Other (Please specify):
Plant ID								
Weed ID & Control Techniques								
Bush regeneration								
Seed collection								
Dieback ID and management								
Dieback hygiene practices								

13. Do you see value in providing additional ongoing training for staff in bushland management/biodiversity conservation?

Respondent:

Yes

No

Please explain

14. Who is responsible for undertaking the day-to-day on-ground (implementation) activities of bushland management? (if more than one person, please rank from 1 to 5 according to who has greatest responsibility, with 1 being greatest to 5 being least)

Respondent:

(1-5)

- Council Environmental Officer
- Council Bush Regeneration/Bushcare Officer
- Council Parks and Gardens Staff
- Council Ecologist
- Other (please specify) _____

15. For those Local Government staff involved in reserve and bushland management (in Question 14 above) which of the following bushland management skills do they have? (please tick appropriate boxes)

Respondent:

Skill	Environmental Officer	Bushcare Officer	Parks and Gardens	Ecologist	Other
Site assessment & planning (identification of problems and issues affecting the resilience of the site and processes required to ameliorate them)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weed recognition/ Identification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Native plant identification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revegetation (direct seeding, planting)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plant propagation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weed control techniques in native bushland areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication with community/friends groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. How are resources currently prioritised to address processes threatening biodiversity? (Rank from 1 to 10 according to main influence on priority setting, from 1 being highest to 10 being lowest influence)

Respondent:

(1-10)

- Greening plan/ local biodiversity plans/ weed strategy
- Community pressure/ lobbying
- Site visit/ assessment
- Consultation with stakeholders
- Bush Forever site
- Mapping
- Local knowledge
- Existence of friends group
- Availability of grant funding
- Other (please specify): _____

Part C – Biodiversity Management

The purpose of this section is to identify the type and extent of management activities undertaken by local government for the conservation of biodiversity.

17. Has your Local Government identified existing and potential ecological linkages?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, when and how was it done, which format is it in, and do linkages extend beyond Local Government boundaries?

Date _____

Method (e.g. desktop, site visits)

Format

Report/plan

GIS

Hardcopy map

Other (please specify):

Do the linkages extend beyond Local Government boundaries?

Yes

No

18. How many hectares of revegetation, for the purpose of establishing or enhancing ecological linkages, has your Local Government undertaken in the last 3 years?

Respondent:

____ ha

19. How many hectares of revegetation do you estimate will be undertaken in the next 3 years to establish or enhance ecological linkages?

Respondent:

____ ha

20. What proportion of Local Government revegetation activities utilise local provenance seed? (please circle)

Respondent:

0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%
60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	

Explanation:

21. What is the greatest source of seed and plants for revegetation?

Respondent:

- Council/community nursery - utilising locally collected seed
- Council/community nursery - utilising seed sourced from outside the local area
- APACE nursery
- CALM nursery
- Other (please specify): _____

22. What percentage of natural areas, managed by your Local Government, have a plan/strategy/policy that targets the management of:

Respondent:

Management Target	Percent of natural areas with a plan/strategy relating to these management targets	Percent of plans that have been/are being implemented
Fire	%	%
Dieback	%	%
Weeds	%	%
Biodiversity conservation	%	%
Management of roadside native vegetation	%	%
Planting of local native species	%	%



Please attach a copy of any relevant plans/strategies/policies to this questionnaire.

23. What percentage of reserves vested in and/or managed by your Local Government is listed in Bush Forever? (please circle)

Respondent:

- 0%
- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%
- 60%
- 70%
- 80%
- 90%
- 100%

24. What percentage of reserves vested in or managed by your Local Government have management plans that contain recommendations for their ongoing conservation and management?

Respondent:

___ %

What proportion of these are Bush Forever sites (as opposed to other local government reserves)?

___ %

What proportion of these management plans have been or are being implemented? (please circle)

- 0%
- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%
- 60%
- 70%
- 80%
- 90%
- 100%

Incentives for Biodiversity Conservation

25. Which of the following incentives does Council offer to private landholders to promote voluntary conservation of biodiversity on private land?

Respondent:

- Grants
- Signage
- Covenants (Please indicate how many local natural areas have conservation covenants)

- Environmental management agreements (Please indicate how many local natural areas have management agreements)

- Technical Advice
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

26. Do you require information on incentives and/or mechanisms to encourage private landholders to protect and manage biodiversity?

Respondent:

Yes

No

Part D – Legislative and Policy instruments for Protection and Management of Biodiversity

The purpose of this section is to review the legislative policy tools that are used for the protection and management of biodiversity; these include Local Planning Schemes, Local Government Act and Local Planning Policies.

Local Planning Scheme (LPS) (formerly Town Planning Scheme (TPS))

(Please Note: Under Section 68 of the Planning and Development Act 2005, all Town Planning Schemes are now referred to as Local Planning Schemes)

27. Do you have a conservation zoning within your LPS (formerly TPS)?

Respondent:

Yes

No

28. Does the Scheme include provisions for giving a bonus to a land developer for the protection of conservation values within the landholding?

Respondent:

Yes

No



If Yes, please attach a copy of the relevant provisions to the questionnaire.

29. Do you use any mechanisms within your LPS (formerly TPS) to provide for the protection of native vegetation, such as the creation of special control areas and/or areas of landscape protection?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, briefly explain:

30. Is there any land zoned 'special rural' under your Scheme that has native vegetation?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, are there provisions for protection of native vegetation such as building envelopes, restriction on uses and strategic firebreaks?

Yes

No



If Yes, please attach a copy of the relevant provisions to the questionnaire.

31. Do you have provisions within your Scheme that specifically state that a development application needs to be submitted for the clearing of native vegetation?

Respondent:

Yes

No



If Yes, please attach a copy of the relevant provisions to the questionnaire.

32. Are there provisions within the LPS (formerly TPS) for tree preservation/conservation orders?

Respondent:

Yes

No



If Yes, please attach a copy of the relevant provisions to the questionnaire.

33. Does your Local Government have guidelines (apart from the LPS e.g. provisions, policies, management plans or other guidelines) in place to assess potential impacts of development on native vegetation?

Respondent:

Yes

No

34. At what stage of development are developers required to assess vegetation? (Please tick as appropriate)

Respondent:

Tick	Development Stage
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	District Planning Stage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Planning Stage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Subdivision Planning Stage

Please give details:

35. Are issues relating to protection of native vegetation considered in:

Respondent:

a. Local Planning Scheme

The amendment, consolidation and reporting of the Local Planning Scheme?

Yes

No

b. Statutory Planning

Review of applications for sub-divisions and development approval and Scheme amendments?

Yes

No

c. Strategic Planning

Development of Local Planning Strategy, Local Planning Policies, rural strategies and structure planning?

Yes

No

If you answered Yes to (a), (b), or (c) please explain how consideration is given:

36. Do you use current environmental mapping datasets to assist with assessing the implications for native vegetation of development applications, subdivisions and Scheme amendments?

Respondent:

Yes No

If Yes, please list the data sources you use:

37. Is your Local Government currently consolidating the LPS (formerly TPS) or preparing a report on the operation of the LPS as required under sections 88 and 90 of the Planning and Development Act 2005?

Respondent:

Yes No

How many years since the Scheme was last reviewed?

___ Years.

If Yes, are you using/do you intend to use data to assess the conservation value of native vegetation?

Yes No

If Yes please specify:

Local Government Policy

38. Do you offer differential rates for land of high conservation value?

Respondent:

Yes No

38.1 If Yes, how many landholders have been offered a differential rate for land of high conservation value and how have you defined 'high conservation value'?

38.2 If No, would you consider offering differential rating to landholders who were protecting and actively managing local natural areas?

Yes No

 **39. Please list and attach any Local Planning Policies at your Local Government that relate to native vegetation protection/management:**

Respondent:

Native Vegetation Clearing

40. Has your Local Government undertaken activities requiring area or purpose permits under the State legislation to control clearing of native vegetation?

Respondent:

Yes - Area / Purpose

No

If Yes, is your Council generally successful in obtaining permits?

Yes

No

Please explain:

What type of support would assist in completing this process in the future?

41. Has your Local Government referred any applications for clearing permits to the DEC for comment?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, did DEC make recommendations?

Yes

No

If Yes, please give details:

Has there been any requirements for your Local Government to offset the clearing?

Yes

No

If Yes, please give details:

Could your Council be better supported to provide more effective input to decisions made by the DEC?

Yes

No

Suggestions:

Part E – Information and monitoring

The purpose of this section is to gain a better understanding of the information and monitoring activities undertaken by Local Government and how these activities are integrated to better protect and manage biodiversity.

Information

42. What information sources do you most regularly consult to assist you with protecting and managing biodiversity (rank in order of importance from 1 to 7, with 1 being greatest and 7 being least) and for what purpose are they used?

Respondent:

Rank (1-7)	Source	Purpose					
		Strategic Planning	Statutory Planning (development approvals)	Operational decisions	Briefing to Councillors	Public enquires	Other (please specify)
	Experts (State agency, LG, consultants)						
	Published reports						
	Unpublished reports (surveys etc)						
	Databases						
	GIS						
	PBP/Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines						
	Other (please specify)						

43. Do staff have access to Geographical Information System (GIS) or cartographic software?

Respondent:

- Yes No

If Yes, who has access? (e.g. planners, environmental officers).

What software does your Local Government use?

- ArcGIS FGIS
 MapInfo Microstation
 Geomedia Other (please specify):
 Corporate specific (e.g. IntraMaps, GeoSamba)
-

44. Which of the following GIS data sets do you utilise?

Respondent:

- Data sets provided to Council by PBP LPS (formerly TPS) zoning
 Cadastral and Tenure Other (please specify):
 Aerial Photography
-

Monitoring

45. Does your Local Government collect information (survey) on any of the following attributes? If so, what method was used?

Respondent:

Datasets	Tick ✓	Methods (e.g. Keighery, Kaesehagen, NAIA Template etc)	Who undertakes activity? (consultant, LG officer, community, university student, other)	% of bushland/wetlands areas surveyed
Vegetation type/community				
Vegetation condition				
Weeds				
Flora				
Dieback				
Fauna				
Other (please specify)				

Part F – Partnerships

The purpose of this section is to examine the partnerships and interactions occurring between Local Government and other stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation and management.

Friends and Community Environmental Groups

46. Are there any friends or community environmental groups involved in biodiversity conservation in your area?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, what is your relationship with them?

Relationship with Friends/community groups	Tick ✓	Comments
Provide them with resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Public meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Strategic planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	
On-ground works	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (please describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

47. Does your Local Government maintain an inventory of friends groups and the reserves they manage?

Respondent:

Yes

No

48. How is the information that Friends Groups collect and the management activities they undertake collated and validated?

Respondent:

Regional Partnerships

49. Is your Council actively involved in regional natural resource management?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, in what way?

50. Does your Council use the Regional Strategy for Natural Resource Management to guide decisions relating to local biodiversity conservation and management?

Yes

No

If Yes, what degree of influence does the regional strategy have?

(rate from 1 to 5, with 1 being 'little influence' and 5 being 'extremely influential')

1

2

3

4

5

How and in what way does the regional strategy influence Council's policy development in relation to NRM?

Describe the value or usefulness of the regional strategy in setting priorities and making decisions about biodiversity conservation initiatives:

51. Does your Local Government work with any of the following organisations regarding biodiversity conservation? If so please briefly describe the nature of collaboration:

Respondent:

Organisation			Nature of collaboration
Catchment groups	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
Community environmental groups (Landcare and Coastcare groups)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
Greening Australia	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
Industry, including farming, mining and forestry interests	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
Regional organisations (Development Commissions, Voluntary Regional Organisations of Councils etc)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
Other/non-government organisations (e.g. UBC, EWAN etc)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
Other Local Governments	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	
State and Commonwealth Governments	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No	

52. Do you see a need for the establishment of formal Regional Organisations of Councils to deal with NRM issues?

Respondent:

Yes

No

53. What role do you see Local Government having in the implementation of Bush Forever?

Respondent:

54. Have you received any support from the state government for the protection and management of Bush Forever sites located in your Local Government area?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, please specify:

55. What relationship do you see the PBP having with Bush Forever?

Respondent:

59. What do you as the main impediment(s) to completing and implementing a Local Biodiversity Strategy in your Local Government?

Respondent:

60. Does Council have another form of green plan or biodiversity plan?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, please explain the intent of this and the issues dealt with:

Milestones for Local Biodiversity Planning

61. Are you aware of the Milestones for Local Biodiversity Planning program (as described in the *Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines*)?

Respondent:

Yes

No

62. Are you currently working toward achieving any of the Milestones?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, which one(s)? If No, why not?

63. Do you intend to participate in the Milestone program, and work towards achieving any of the Milestones in the future?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, which one(s) and when? If No, why not?

Natural Area Initial Assessment Templates

64. Are you aware of the Natural Area Initial Assessment (NAIA) Templates in the *Local Government Biodiversity Planning Guidelines*?

Respondent:

Yes

No

65. Have you used the NAIA templates to assess natural areas in your Local Government?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, when? _____.

66. What proportion of the natural areas in your Local Government have been assessed using the NAIA templates? (please circle)

Respondent:

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%
70% 80% 90% 100%

Did you find the templates easy to use?

Yes

No

Did you use technical assistance from PBP when using the templates?

Yes

No

Do you intend to reassess your natural areas using the NAIA templates again in the future?

Yes

No

If Yes, when? _____.

Targeted Grants

67. Are you aware of the PBP Targeted Grants Program and its aims?

Respondent:

Yes

No

68. Have you ever applied for a grant through the Targeted Grants program?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If No, why not?

The Perth Biodiversity Project Services

69. How important are the following PBP services to your Local Government? (please rank from 1 to 12, with 1 being the most important and 12 being the least important).

Respondent:

RANK (1-12)	SERVICE
	NAMN forum
	NAMN newsletter
	Biodiversity News
	Biodiversity Planners Network forum
	Mapping/GIS/data support
	Technical assistance with NAIA templates
	Other forms of technical assistance (Please specify: _____)
	Assistance with writing and submitting targeted grants applications
	The PBP website
	PBP training/workshops
	Behaviour Change/Local Nature Spot Project
	Other (Please specify: _____)

70. Were you aware that all of these services were available to your Local Government through the PBP?

Respondent:

Yes

No

71. Would you like more information on any of these services?

Respondent:

Yes

No

If Yes, please specify which one(s):

72. Are there any other services you would like to see provided by the PBP?

Respondent:

Yes

No

Comment:

73. Who do you believe are the most influential stakeholders on conserving biodiversity in your Local Government?

Respondent:

74. How can the PBP be more effective in supporting your Local Government?

Respondent:

75. What is your perception of the role of the Perth Biodiversity Project and how do you see its future?

Respondent:



**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY
ALL RESPONDENTS WILL RECEIVE A SUMMARY OF THEIR SURVEY RESULTS**

Signed: _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

Position: _____