



A sustainable and caring community built with vibrancy and diversity



The Town is committed to the principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability, and is dedicated to achieving and promoting sustainable outcomes throughout its everyday functions and responsibilities.

Waste management, air, water, energy and biodiversity are all key local environmental issues that are also of significance at both a national and global level and the Town is proud to be involved in a number of programmes and initiatives to address these issues and meet the needs and expectations of our community.



TOWN OF VINCENT

Town of Vincent Sustainable Environment Plan 2007-2012

The Sustainable Environment Plan provides a framework to progress the Town to a sustainable future. It concentrates on five focus areas being air, water, biodiversity, energy and waste management and whilst the Plan focuses primarily on the environmental component of sustainability, it is cognisant of the closely interconnected social and economic components. The Plan outlines the Town's objectives for the next five years and what actions will be undertaken to achieve these objectives. The Town will engage, inspire and motivate the community to participate.

Cleaner Air – Reducing Green House Gases

Being located close to the Central Business District and as a busy and vibrant area, the Town recognises the need for air quality to be enhanced.

Cities for Climate Protection

As a participant in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) – Local Governments for Sustainability Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP), we have completed all five milestones for CCP and are now participating in CCP+. To assist with the goal of reducing air pollution, the Town has set an emissions reduction goal.

TravelSmart and TOD

Actively promoting TravelSmart and encouraging Transit Oriented Development is helping to reduce the number of cars on the roads by making walking, cycling and taking public transport more attractive.

Carbon Neutral

To offset the Town's fleet greenhouse gas emissions, we have implemented a Carbon Neutral Programme with the Men of the Trees and we take part in the planting of the trees.

Healthy Homes

Working towards cleaner air within the Town, our Environmental Health Section run seminars, workshops and community-based participatory surveys in relation to air quality in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation. Past seminars have related to indoor air quality and reducing the use of chemicals in cleaning, outdoor air quality including minimising the 'haze' associated with wood-fired heating, tips on reducing the health and energy impact when heating homes, and promotion of the State Government rebates for making the change from wood heaters to gas heaters.

Water Wise

The Town and our community take pride in the provision, maintenance and enjoyment of the public parks and recreational areas. To ensure that these resources will be available for years to come, the Town is examining how to reduce water use, to reuse stormwater and use natural systems to improve water quality. In Town-owned buildings and parks, 'water wise' technologies are implemented to reduce total usage. Beatty Park Leisure Centre has also adopted water wise practices in its operations and significant water savings have been made over the years and with a number of programmes and initiatives in place these successes are set to continue into the future. In October 2007 the Centre won an award in the Water Conservation and Efficiency category of the Department of Water's Water Awards.

ICLEI A/NZ – International Council for Environmental Initiatives

By taking on the new Water Campaign Programme we are part of an international freshwater programme which aims to build the capacity of local government to reduce water consumption and improve water quality.

Australian Government Water Fund – Community Water Grants

We are progressing these grants which will allow us to implement some further initiatives that may follow on from the ICLEI programme.

Saving water and reducing water use within the Town – the State Government offers rebates on water wise products, grey water reuse and rain water tanks.

Biodiversity

It is the Town's aim to re-establish, conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Indigenous Vegetation

Every year our Parks Services Section hold native plant sales and workshops for residents with the aims of increasing the biodiversity and habitat within the Town and encouraging water wise gardens.

By encouraging the planting of native trees and shrubs which are historically found in Vincent, local vegetation provides a strong sense of place, a suitable environment for local fauna and is very water wise.

We also take part in National Tree Day by planting trees in areas of rehabilitation within the parks and reserves.

Wetlands and Lakes

Boasting a rich diversity of ecosystems, Vincent is home to small lakes, wetlands and parklands with an array of flora and fauna.

Our commitment to preserving and enhancing these natural areas recognises not only the ecological benefits of protecting our natural assets, but also the social and recreational benefits as well.

A Wetlands Interpretative Project has been undertaken and the Town is progressing the Hyde Park Lakes Restoration Project.

To help maintain the natural areas the Town undertakes weed control in a way which causes as low impact as possible and also works with the Claisebrook Catchment Group and Swan River Trust to ensure the viability of our waterways.

Wildlife

Our lakes and reserves are home to multiple bird species and Hyde Park is famed for the native and exotic birds that visit throughout the year.

Along with Smiths Lake and the Banks Reserve foreshore, Hyde Park is used as a feeding and breeding site for a variety of birds and it is also home to a number of other fauna, including tortoises and various freshwater crustaceans.

Energy

The Town aims to reduce its use of non-renewable energy sources and to promote energy alternatives and efficiency in the community.

Sustainable Energy or Green (Natural) Power

The Town has reduced the use of non-renewable energy resources in its operations by choosing to use Green Power to supply 25% of its energy. The Town will also be examining ways to assist residents and local businesses to reduce their power consumption.

Building

The Residential Design Codes and Building Code of Australia reflect our commitment to promoting sustainable environmental objectives by encouraging building design that incorporates sustainable and energy efficient design that befits the local climate and provides comfortable living conditions.

It is also important to note that the Town is a **nuclear free zone** and supports programmes for renewable and safe energy generation.

Waste Management

The Town endeavours to make the residential community and business owners aware of the opportunities that exist to reduce, reuse and recycle solid waste and, in its own operations, to achieve best practice in solid waste management.

Recycling

By actively encouraging the community to re-use and recycle, we hope to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill. The Town is a member of the Mindarie Regional Council and together we are working towards the goal of Zero Waste.

A new Waste Management Strategy is currently being developed, with the main objective of introducing an improved kerbside recycling service which will allow for greater quantities of recycling to be collected and diverted from landfill.

Bulk Waste Collection

Materials collected during the twice yearly green waste and annual general junk collections for residential properties are recycled.

Worm Farms

The Town runs worm farm and compost workshops where residents are shown how to deal with their organics once they have separated it so it does not enter the waste stream. The Town provides heavily discounted worm farms for residents.

Environmental Awards and Grants

The Town has introduced an Environmental Grants programme to assist schools and community groups to carry out environmental projects and implement other environmental initiatives within the Town. Awards will be given to individuals and schools for their environmental achievements within the Town.





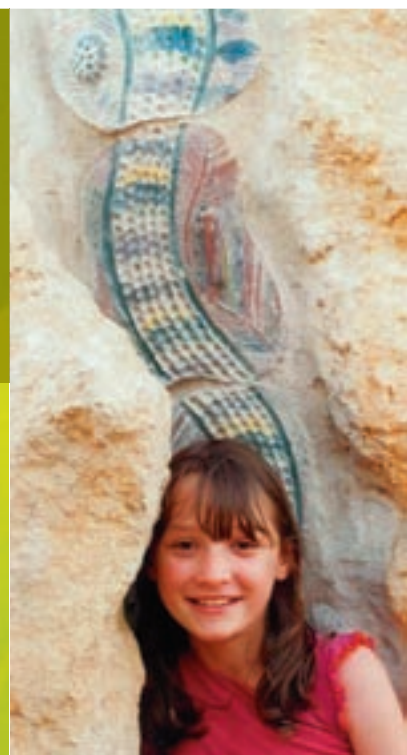
It's how you get there that counts



ZERO WASTE
live the vision

Supporting **carbonneutral.com.au**

By working with our community, we aim to ensure the sustainability of the Town for future generations whilst meeting our current needs. Please do not hesitate to contact the Town if you are interested in obtaining further information on any of our environmental projects. Our dedicated Environmental Officer can be contacted on 9273 6027 or TTY 9273 6078.



TOWN OF VINCENT

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October 2007

