



Belmont City
Environmental Champions
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20 September 2023

Mr John Christie
CEO
City of Belmont
215 Wright St
Cloverdale WA 6105

Dear Mr Christie

Re: Environment and Sustainability Strategy

The Belmont City Environmental Champions (BCEC) is a recently formed community group, comprising of residents living within the Belmont local government area. Grounded in kindness, we care about our community and our local environment. We are committed to programs and activities that bring people together, to educate and inspire action for a cleaner and greener City of Belmont.

The committee is pleased the City is taking steps to develop a strategy around sustainability and the environment. Upon review of the draft document, we wish to make comment on the following items, as they appear in each section. We note there is an element of overlap between each section.

Environmental Management in the City of Belmont

A good overview of the City's Environmental Management initiatives are outlined in this section. We would like to make comment on the commitment of encouraging involvement. There is room for improvement in this realm, which we outline further in subsequent sections.

Knowledge, Partnerships and Environmental Governance – Informing this Strategy

At item 1.7, the aims should also include liaison with stakeholders in business outside of the City to promote the sustainability initiatives and how this should be implemented into investments they may consider (e.g. developments submitted for



planning consideration). Business should be aware of the City's environmental credentials and offer an incentive for high quality investment.

Urban Ecosystem Services – Ecology and Biodiversity

At item 2.1, we encourage the City to broaden its aims to include developing planning strategies that would review unnecessary clearing of vegetation on private lands and encourage the increase of significant canopy trees on private lands. Connectivity should not be solely reliant on investments in public land.

We suggest an amendment to item 2.2.1 referring to native plantings in streetscapes. Instead, diverse and climate resilient plantings should be included together with native species. We also note the definition of streetscapes should include verges and any public lands.

Similar to item 2.2.1, we encourage Council to amend reference to native trees and instead include diversity and climate resilient species together with native species.

Water Resource Management and Protection

The group suggests item 3.2.2 be broadened to refer to specific opportunities. This includes remedial planting along the Swan River foreshore, at reserves co-managed between City of Belmont and WaterCorp, in addition to sumps and drains fully managed by WaterCorp.

Sustainably Built Environments

At item 4.2, we suggest the City implement planning strategies that prescribes minimum efficiency standards for developments to be equipped to face climate change challenges. This should be addressed more strongly than referring to a Sustainable Development Guide. Notwithstanding, any Guide should be developed urgently, with a short timeframe defined ensuring its development in a timely manner.

Climate Resilient Energy and Transport

We believe the City of Belmont should consider more ambitious aims of achieving emission targets and sourcing 100% renewable energy before 2050 as outlined at item 5.1.1.

At item 5.2 we believe the community should also be equipped to face climate change challenges though engagement with stakeholders as previously outlined in our suggestion made for item 1.7. It is important residents, future residents and



investors are encouraged to make energy efficient decisions about developments and our built environment.

Waste and Resource Recovery

Education around on-site composting and other similar initiatives should be considered in addition to best practice disposal systems (e.g. FOGO that will soon be introduced in Belmont) as outlined at item 6.2.1.

Implementation, Review and Monitoring of this Strategy

The BCEC suggests a more detailed plan is set for this Strategy, which is a 10-year plan. Outside of annual reviews and a mid-term major review at year five (2028), there seems to be limited accountability and goal setting relating to the initiatives discussed in the document. This section of the Strategy should outline key goals to ensure that progress is made in a measurable and sustainable way for the City's staff and the benefit of implementing these actions for residents.

Conclusion

Thank you for considering our suggested improvements as part of the development of this Strategy. We look forward to actively working with Council with future initiatives that concern our local environment.

Yours faithfully

Committee
Belmont City Environmental Champions